



Principals Report

18 Sep 2026 Vol 16

A wonderful term

I would like to congratulate our students, staff and parents on a wonderful Term 3. The school has achieved a lot over this term. Some wonderful NAPLAN and Student Attitude to school survey results indicate the tremendous direction our school is heading in. From Book Week to Basketball competitions and Maths Challenges we have achieved a lot and had plenty of fun in the process. I wish everyone a restful break over the holidays and some wonderful time to recharge. Oh and on a personal note – let's hope the Hawks win the flag!



Voluntary Contributions

On behalf of School Council, I would like to thank families who have contributed voluntary financial contributions so far this year. We have made an improvement on last year with 20% of voluntary contributions received to date in 2026, up from 15% at this same time last year. However, we know that similar schools in our area receive well above 80% of voluntary contributions from their school community.

Government funding primarily supports the core costs of running a school, and voluntary contributions from families play an important role in helping our school go beyond the basics and invest as a community in the broader learning opportunities, resources, wellbeing initiatives, facilities and programs that help children thrive. Every contribution, large or small, helps strengthen our school and ensures that we can continue to provide the rich, engaging and supportive environment our community values.

If you have not already contributed this year, or are in a position to make a contribution, please look out for the "Payment Centre" on the top right-hand side of your Compass homepage and follow the link through to 2026 Parent Contributions.

Term Four – No Hat, No Play Policy

Preston North East Primary School is a sun smart school. We value finding the right balance between outside play, safe exposure to the sun (and the positive Vitamin D benefits this brings) and ensuring children are safe from the fierce heat of the sun. Our school policy states that children must wear a hat for outside play during terms one and four when the heat is at it's highest.

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. Skin cancer is one of the most preventable cancers.

School staff have a duty of care and obligations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic) to ensure all reasonable steps are taken to minimise risks to student and staff health and safety arising from exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation. **(continued over)**

Forward Diary

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

Reminder



End of Term

TODAY

2.30pm

early finish

Principals Report continued...

Encouraging sun protection at school

Our school staff can:

- check daily sun protection times on the SunSmart and Bureau of Meteorology websites, or free SunSmart app and widget
- remind students to apply or reapply sunscreen before going outside using visual reminders, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies or sunscreen stations near exit points
- role-model sun protection measures, including applying sunscreen before going outside
- encourage and remind students to wear sun-protective clothing, hats and close-fitting wrap-around sunglasses
- provide sunscreen or encourage students to bring it from home.

John-Mark Gook — Principal



Breakfast Club FREE!

From 8.30am
Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri



Technology, Supervision and Cyber Safety

As technology becomes increasingly prevalent in children's lives, parental supervision and open conversations about online safety are essential. Children can encounter risks online that they may not yet have the maturity or skills to recognise, such as inappropriate content, cyberbullying, strangers, scams and privacy concerns. Setting clear boundaries, knowing which apps and platforms children are using, and regularly checking in with them can help keep children safe. Most importantly, children should know they can talk to a trusted adult if something online makes them feel uncomfortable, worried or unsafe.

Children and AI Chatbots

AI chatbots such as ChatGPT can be useful tools for learning and creativity, but they are not a replacement for trusted adults or professional support.

Of particular concern is children using AI chatbots for emotional or mental health support. Research has shown that chatbots can miss important warning signs, provide inappropriate or misleading responses, and sometimes reinforce unhealthy thoughts or behaviours. Children may also begin relying on AI for companionship or emotional support rather than seeking help from family or trusted adults.



2027 Enrolments

Enrolments for 2027 are well under way. If you have a child who is starting school next year please speak to the office about how to enrol.

Assistant Principal spot

On Monday Caitlyn, Rosie and I took 8 students to visit the Melbourne Juniors kindergarten. The kinder kids loved playing tag, riding trikes and reading books with our students. We can't wait for Prep Transition to begin next term!



School uniform

PNE's Uniform Policy can be found on the school website. All students are expected to arrive at school in the appropriate school uniform, including the red school jumper/t-shirt, black pants/skirt and suitable closed shoes.

Jewellery and cosmetics

** Stud earrings and small sleepers worn in the ears, and watches, are the only acceptable forms of jewellery.*

** Cosmetics and tanning products are not permitted. Nails should be short and only clear nail polish is permitted.*

Sun safety

School uniform hats must be worn outdoors in Term 4.

Financial support

I can access uniform items through State Schools Relief <https://www.ssr.net.au/>. Please contact me for help with vouchers or uniform items.



Planning Week

Our teachers have been working hard to prepare for a fun final term of 2026.



Sports Day fundraiser

JSC would like to thank Charlotte and the House Captains for organising the Sports Day fundraiser today. Thank you to families who donated money for our playground improvements. You can expect to see some colourful games appearing on the concrete next term.



Have a relaxing break with your family and we'll see you in the new term.

Annie Neville—Assistant Principal



With the warmer weather on it's way, we hope everyone enjoys a wonderful break and comes back refreshed and ready for a busy Term 4!

Our popular beef hamburgers will remain available as Tuesday's Special in Term 4. No specific food item will be locked in for Thursdays, but specials will rotate on a fortnightly cycle, giving the students something different to look forward to each fortnight. Keep reading the School Newsletter to find out what's cooking for our next Thursday Special starting Thursday October the 22nd.

We are excited to welcome back icy poles and ice creams for Term 4! Please check the Term 4 Canteen Menu for the available choices and prices. There will be a small change, however, to collecting the Ice Confectionaries. Icy poles and ice creams need to be ordered through your child's class lunch tub at the start of the school day and then collected from the Canteen and enjoyed during the first play break. NO icy pole /ice creams will be sent to classes in the lunch tubs.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

Juliee Hammond
Canteen Manager



**Hats are mandatory
for outside play
Term 4**

Italian

Upcoming Events Melbourne:
Italian Film Festival Palace Cinemas
Fri 18 Sept – Thu 15 Oct

Melbourne Italian Festa
Royal Exhibition Buildings
Sat 17 Oct 11 am – 10.30 pm & Sun 18 Oct
11 am – 8.30 pm

Two very exciting events are coming to Melbourne. During the school holidays, the Italian film festival is coming to Melbourne at Palace Cinemas. All films have English subtitles. Check the individual cinemas for program details.

After the holidays, on Sat 17 Oct and Sun 18 Oct, Melbourne will be hosting the Melbourne Italian Festa (formerly the Lygon Street Festival)

This year the Festa will be held in The Royal Exhibition Buildings and Museum Piazza.

Italian food, music and fashion will be showcased together with car displays, cooking demonstrations and plenty of activities for children. It will be lots of fun.

Entry is Free!



Buone Vacanze,

Signora Palmas—Co-ordinator of Italian

Royal Exhibition Building &
Museum Plaza



F-2 Area

The Grade 1/2s have been very busy learning about Space. Our future astronauts have been gathering facts, writing information reports and making hanging mobiles.

What 1/2Y learned about Space:

Lula - Floating in space is like floating in a pool.

Idris - Venus is the hottest planet.

Mimi - Jupiter is the biggest planet.

Teddy - Saturn is the second biggest planet.

Abdi - The sun is a star.

Koa - Space is really dark.

Andre - Mercury is the smallest planet.

Osman - Pluto is a dwarf planet.

Rachael - Saturn is a gas planet.



F-2 Area

Azariah - I learnt that Uranus is really, really cold.

Noelle - I learnt that Saturn has rings made out of metal, rock and dust.

Allen - The Sun is a star and made of gas.

Maisa - I learnt that Uranus has vertical rings.

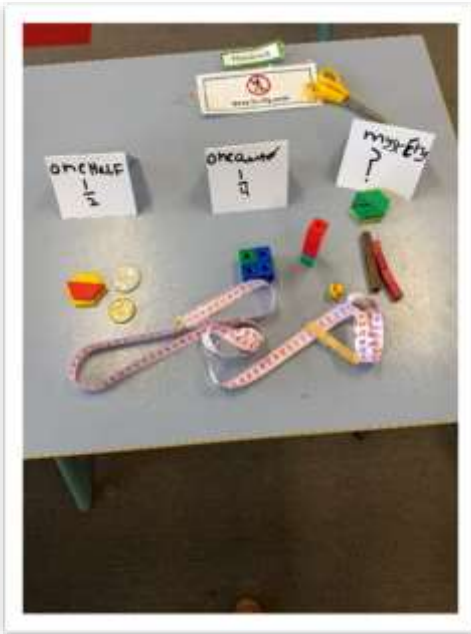


2/3/4 Area

Our Fraction Museum

Our students have been busy exploring fractions in a creative and hands-on way! As part of our learning, they created their very own Fraction Museum, showcasing different ways to represent, compare and explain fractions. Students used models, drawings and real-world examples to demonstrate their understanding and explain their mathematical thinking.

It has been wonderful to see students working collaboratively, sharing their ideas and discovering that fractions are all around us!





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**

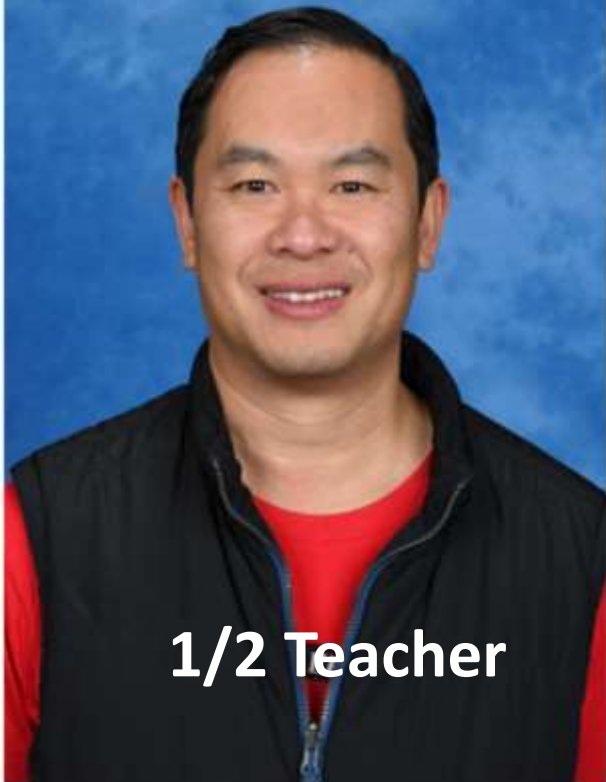
Sports Day

At PNE



Getting to know us

Michael Hwang



1/2 Teacher

What is your favourite thing about working at PNE? The multiculturalism of our school. I've really enjoyed the diversity of cultures and learning more from both the students and their parents.

Where did you grow up and go to school? I grew up on the other side of Australia, in Perth, Western Australia. My first primary school was 'Our Lady Assumption' a catholic school in the West.

Do you have a hidden talent that we should know about? Not now, when younger I used to be in the choir and sang soprano....

If Mr Gook told you to take the day off and enjoy it. What exactly would you do? A nice meal with the family, a long walk with the dog and watching a comedy to have a good laugh!

If you were principal for the day, what would you do? Change all the bells to ring Happy by Pharrel Williams. Breakfast for all the staff, sausage sizzle for parents and students. Within the class during Morning Circle, have them make a decision as to what they would like to learn about in session of their choice.

What is one of the funniest things you have heard from a student?

I drew a welcome sign to all the students at the start of the term with a sketch of myself on the whiteboard. Instead of the students giving me the thumbs up, I received the comment, "What is that"? I stood along the board and gave a clue, "it is a teacher"...with a response, "Oh it's Mr Hindsley". I responded, "Good guess but no". Another student said, "It is Mr Gook"!

I then replied, "It's me"!



WELLBEING MATTERS



When children can recognise and name how they are feeling, they are better able to communicate their needs, understand others, and make positive choices about how to respond. Developing this emotional vocabulary helps children manage big feelings, build stronger relationships and develop confidence in navigating everyday challenges.

NAME THAT EMOTION QUIZ

A



B



C



D



E



F



**NERVOUS
CALM**

**UPSET
SHOCKED**

**EXCITED
ANGRY**

Answers: A - Excited, B- Angry, C- Upset, D- Shocked, E- Nervous, F - Calm

Supporting our Local Community



NICHOLAS RIDICULOUS
The Puppet Party

Nicholas Ridiculous can barely tidy his room, so how will he get to Melbourne's biggest Puppet Party?

BOOK NOW
Tickets via QR

Circus - Laughter - Music - Fun

FRINGE FESTIVAL 29 Sept - 4 Oct **CIRCUS NEXUS**
Preston

Great for Children (or inner children) aged 3 - 8 yrs

Students leading the way
Darebin Schools' Yarning Conference

Celebrate the power of the transformative Yarning Conference, where Darebin primary school students lead the way on learning Aboriginal histories and cultures.

Join us for an inspiring evening exploring the impact of the Yarning Conference. This is an opportunity for families, carers and community members to learn from and alongside students about Aboriginal histories, cultures, truth-telling and creativity.

On the night, we will hear from performer and key Yarning Conference cultural educator Shiralee Hood, as well as local teachers, principals and Darebin staff as they share insights, experiences and the lasting impact of the Yarning Conference.

Tuesday 13 October, 5-6.30pm, Preston Library

BOOK ONLINE or call 1300 655 355

DAREBIN BASKETBALL

HOLIDAY CAMPS

REGISTER

TRAIN HARD. LEVEL UP. HAVE FUN.
FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES.

JUNIOR HOOPS CAMP
STARTS SEP 21!

ALSO
SHOOTING CAMP • ELITE CAMP
GIRLS ONLY • DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT

NARRANDJERI STADIUM, THORNBURY



National Relay Service
relayservice.gov.au

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service.

Speak Your Language
T 8470 8470

العربية Italiano Somali
繁體中文 Macedonian Español
English বাংলা فرنس
မြန်မာ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Tiếng Việt

School Holiday Fun at EPCC



Come along with the family these school holidays and discover the Newton Street Community Garden!

Meet our friendly garden volunteers, take a tour of the garden and learn more about what's growing and how the garden brings local people together.



Tour the garden
and meet our
volunteers



Kids can make some
seed balls to
take home



Enjoy some
morning tea



Meet and connect
with fellow locals

Whether you're a keen gardener or simply curious about what happens at the garden, everyone is welcome. Drop in, get your hands a little dirty and enjoy a relaxed morning in the garden!



When:
Wednesdays
23 & 30 September



Time:
10.00am – 12.00pm



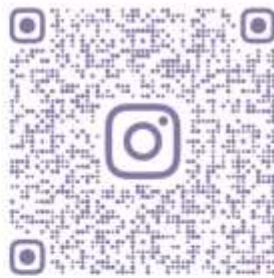
Where:
East Preston Community Centre
7 Newton Street, Reservoir



For catering purposes, please let us know if you will be attending and of any dietary requirements by calling 8470 8107 or email epcc@darebin.vic.gov.au



East Preston
Community
Centre



- ✓ Privately-owned
- ✓ Early Childhood Education
- ✓ Nutritious Meals and Snacks
- ✓ Fully funded Kindergarten program
- ✓ Dedicated team of permanent educators
- ✓ From 6 weeks to school age

Enquire



Call for more :
03 9088 5077



EMAIL:
adminpreston@littlesunshine.com.au



<https://www.littlesunshine.com.au/>



BLAKE STREET KINDERGARTEN

Discover why sessional kindergarten makes all the difference



3 year old kinder

Government funded program
No cost to families
A gentle introduction to kinder life



4 year old kinder

Government funded program
No cost to families
Building skills for a big year ahead



Learning through play and creativity every day at Blake Street Kindergarten



Experienced Educators

A degree-qualified teacher leads every session alongside other qualified educators, all dedicated to supporting your child's learning.



We know your child

Smaller, stable groups mean educators build real relationships with every child and family.



Learning through intentional practice

Every experience is intentionally planned to support children's social, motor, creative, and overall developmental growth.



Ready for school

Our structured program builds school readiness skills and introduces routines similar to primary school, helping children transition to Prep with confidence and excitement.



Community and belonging

Families are part of the journey — join events, committees, and a welcoming community.



All about kinder

Our whole environment, curriculum, and team exists for one purpose — your child's kindergarten year.

Consistent educators, every session — because familiar faces matter

Your child sees the same qualified educators session after session, building trust, security, and stronger learning outcomes.



North Darebin Combined Kindergartens Association



Book a tour today

03 9478 8037

109 Blake St, Reservoir VIC 3073

ENROL NOW

Register via Darebin Council

darebin.vic.gov.au

LEARN MORE

blakestreetkinder.ndcka.org.au

