

## Week 7 Term 4

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Namadgi Families,

Well, the last week certainly threw us all a curve ball. Thank you to families, staff and students who demonstrated enormous flexibility and support with last minute school closure notifications. I can assure you all, we were working around the clock with the Education Directorate team to enable school to reopen as quickly and safely as we could. One recurring piece of feedback from parents was the offering of learning resources throughout the week. Unfortunately, our teacher computers were also locked in buildings awaiting clearance and hampered our ability to produce at home learning resources. With that in mind, don't forget there are always links to age-appropriate learning resources on the ACT Education Directorate web page. As we welcome all students back from Monday, Week 7, all our usual programs and external functions such as the canteen and Play Base, will also open for business. Even with the recent disruptions our end of year plans are still moving ahead. Graduation ceremonies, award assemblies, Christmas Carols and everything in between will still take place on the dates set. Please reference the calendar in this newsletter to save the dates.

Last week our high school students remained on-site and continued with their regular timetable and learning programs. The Year 10 students were working hard to wrap up their time at Namadgi prior to transitioning to College and have been finalising assessments for reports. Our Year 10's are scheduled to complete their school year at the end of Week 8 with Graduation and Formal. I wish all graduating students the best of luck and I encourage you to finish the next two weeks on a positive note.

As we nudge closer to the end of another school year, I extend my thanks to staff who have been at Namadgi School over recent years and are looking to extend their careers in other roles or with other schools. I acknowledge and recognise the following staff for their contributions at Namadgi School and wish them every success moving forward:

Farewell:

- Mrs. Lauren Chard (High School Dance)
- Ms. Amelia Macafee (High School small group)
- Mrs. Kimberley Circosta (Primary School)
- Ms. Suzi Foley (Primary School)
- Ms. Jiayi Gu (Primary School)
- Mrs. Merrilyn Sparks (Primary School small group)

These teachers have had a positive impact on the students they have taught and will be missed at Namadgi School. I look forward to introducing our new staff members joining us in 2026 in the new year and I welcome them to our community.

A special mention is reserved for Mrs. Bea Hale. Mrs. Hale has been with Namadgi School since 2013 and will be retiring at the end of 2025. Her career with the ACT Education Directorate has seen her fulfill roles with the Education Support Office, multiple school settings as a classroom teacher and executive member and has positively shaped the lives of many young people. Bea has been a long serving member of the Namadgi Executive team, and I would like to formally thank her for her wisdom, support and kindness over the last nine years I have worked with her. On behalf of a grateful community and Directorate, I wish Bea every happiness in her next life journey. Who knows... she might be back on occasion in 2026 to take a few classes.

Our school P&C President, Mrs. Rhodina Ellison, is inviting interested parents to join the P&C team. Please contact Rhodina through the association Facebook page or via email at [namadgischool.pandc@gmail.com](mailto:namadgischool.pandc@gmail.com) if you can support this great team in 2026.

Following from the recent closures it has come to our attention that some families have changed contact details. To ensure we can contact you effectively, please update your details with the front office team. This can be done through email correspondence at [info@namadgi.act.edu.au](mailto:info@namadgi.act.edu.au) or pop in and update the records with our front office staff in person.

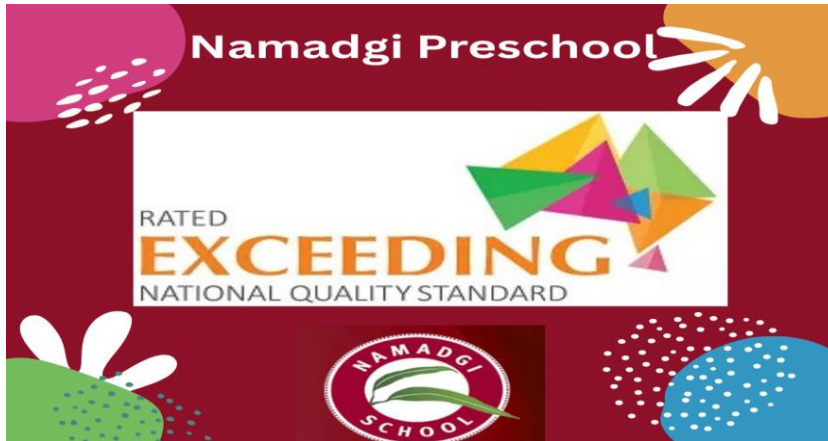
Have a great Week 7 and please keep your notes and money coming in on time for the end of year events.

Kind Regards,  
Gareth Richards  
Principal – Namadgi School

## **Calendar of events**

Date	Event
27-Nov	Volunteer Morning tea
03-Dec	Year 10 Walkout assembly
03-Dec	Yr 10 Formal
08-Dec	Christmas Carols
10-Dec	Year 10 Graduation
11-Dec	Year 6 Graduation
12-Dec	Year 6 end of year celebrations
16-Dec	Jamberoo
18-Dec	Last Day of school

## Preschool



### What a fabulous last term of preschool we are having!

Our preschool children are always learning about how everything grows. This links in nicely with us exploring, growing plants and observing the world around us.

We love watching our animals continue to grow. The tadpoles are slowly but surely getting bigger, we check for legs each day but so far none have been spotted. Our silk worms have almost tripled in size and some are starting to cocoon!! We can't wait to see the moths come out. We loved having our



grand friends visit and help us plant some new beautiful flowers, vegetables and herbs as well. Then we got to visit the amazing Mrs Desmet in the Kitchen garden and learned all about how soil is helped by our compost and composting beetles. We read a fun story called compost stew and explored this amazing resource.

We are in full swing with our transitions to kindergarten and still visiting the big school library we are up to our last borrowing weeks so don't forget to return your books.



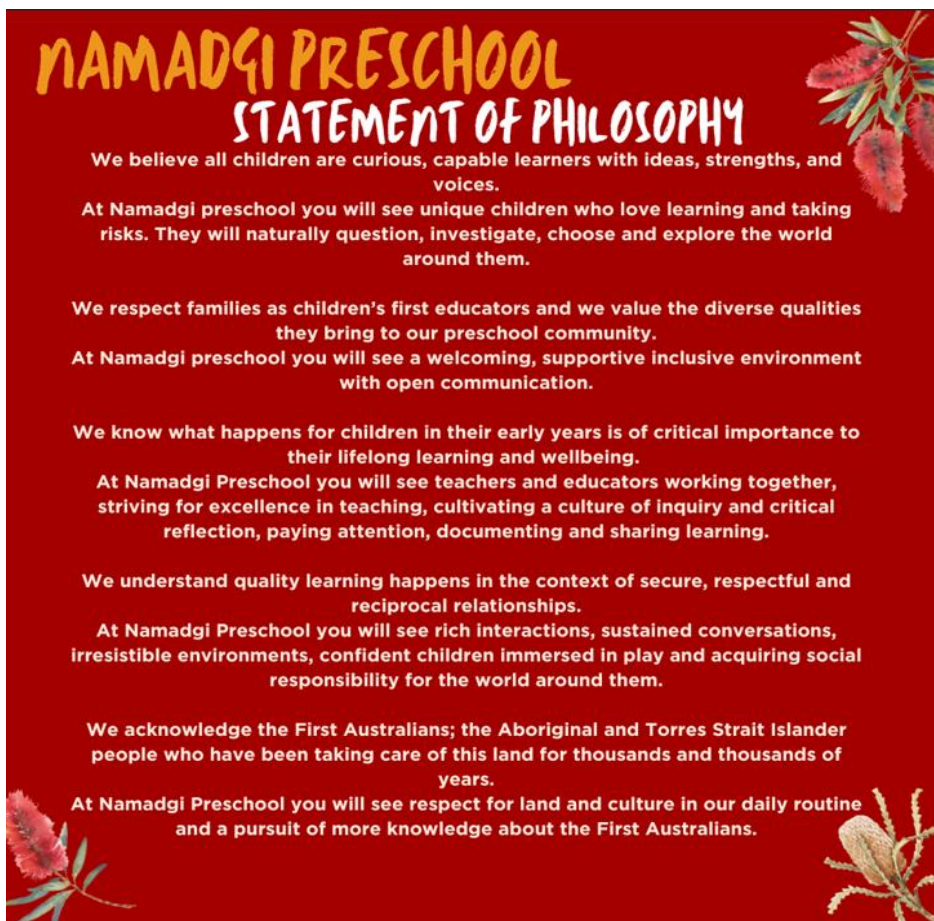
Just a few reminders...

- It always a good idea to pack spare clothes in these warmer months as we often need to get changed after exploring outside
- We wear suncream each day but still need to wear a hat, don't

forget to keep a labelled one at school



- Save the date MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER for our Christmas concert – the preschoolers will be performing 2 songs at the whole school gathering.



## NAMADGI PRESCHOOL STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

We believe all children are curious, capable learners with ideas, strengths, and voices.

At Namadgi preschool you will see unique children who love learning and taking risks. They will naturally question, investigate, choose and explore the world around them.

We respect families as children's first educators and we value the diverse qualities they bring to our preschool community.

At Namadgi preschool you will see a welcoming, supportive inclusive environment with open communication.

We know what happens for children in their early years is of critical importance to their lifelong learning and wellbeing.

At Namadgi Preschool you will see teachers and educators working together, striving for excellence in teaching, cultivating a culture of inquiry and critical reflection, paying attention, documenting and sharing learning.

We understand quality learning happens in the context of secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships.

At Namadgi Preschool you will see rich interactions, sustained conversations, irresistible environments, confident children immersed in play and acquiring social responsibility for the world around them.

We acknowledge the First Australians; the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have been taking care of this land for thousands and thousands of years.

At Namadgi Preschool you will see respect for land and culture in our daily routine and a pursuit of more knowledge about the First Australians.

### **Namadgi Preschool Statement of Philosophy Consultation 2025**

Each year, Namadgi Preschool invites families and community members to share their thoughts on our Preschool Philosophy.

We'd love to hear your feedback, suggestions, and ideas to ensure our philosophy continues to reflect the values and aspirations of our children, families, and community. Your input helps us recognise what's working well and identify what we could include or improve.

Please share your thoughts by emailing your responses to [emma.vince@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:emma.vince@ed.act.edu.au)

You might like to consider:

- What aspects of our Preschool Philosophy reflect your family's values and beliefs?
- Is there anything we could add or change to better represent our preschool community?
- Do you have any suggestions to help our philosophy better reflect truth-telling, inclusion, or belonging?

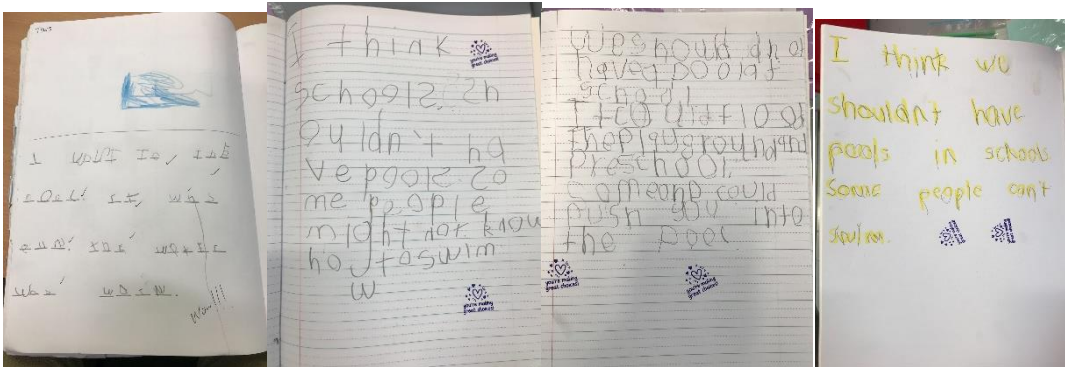
**Emma Vince**  
**Preschool and Small Group Executive Teacher**

**Keep smiling!**  
**The Preschool Team**  
**Rebecca Buchanan, Cindy Treverrow**  
**Puneet Sandhu, Lesley Charlton & Jodie Tolson**  
**Executive Teacher: Emma Vince**

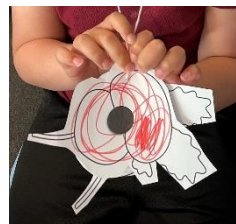
## K-6 Small Group Program K-2LSUBR, 3-6LSUCS & 3-6LSUMS

This year is zipping by so quickly! A reminder to please send your child to school with a SunSmart hat and a clearly labelled drink bottle each day. Our concert is also fast approaching and will be held **after school at 5pm on Monday of Week 9 (8/12)**.

In **K-2BR**, we have been learning about persuasive writing. Students are exploring how we can influence others' opinions by using facts, reasons, and personal stories to support a viewpoint. During floor time, we are given a topic and work together to list arguments for and against. We then break into smaller groups to write our *Point* and *Evidence* before reading our work to a partner. Below are some examples of our writing about whether schools should have pools. Providing similar opportunities at home—such as encouraging your child to persuade you to cook their favourite meal—helps students practise giving reasons for their opinions, strengthening their writing skills.



In **SGMS and CS**, we commemorated **Remembrance Day** on 11 November. Students discussed the importance of the day, reflected on their personal connections, created poppy necklaces, and participated respectfully in the school's special presentation.



We have also been working on writing letters to someone we admire. It has been fascinating to watch students move through the full writing process—choosing a person, gathering information, identifying what makes that person inspiring, drafting, editing, and crafting a final polished letter. Congratulations to all students for the persistence and thoughtfulness they have shown throughout this task.

**K-6 Small Group Team:**  
**Belinda Rathborne, Merrilyn Sparks, Cindy Somenek**  
**Executive Teacher: Emma Vince**

## KINDERGARTEN

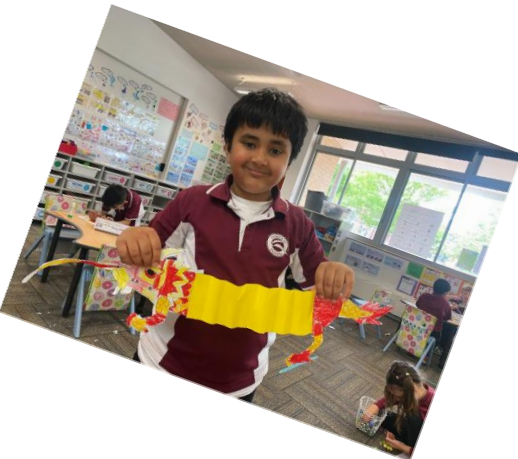
### Mathematics

Kindergarten has been focusing on position and location in Mathematics. Students have been strengthening their understanding of direction, to independently use positional language, such as 'on top', 'next to', or 'under', to describe where they or an object is located.



### History and Geography

This term in Kindergarten, students have been learning about a variety of celebrations from around the world. So far, we have explored traditions from Matakari, Diwali, Ramadan and Chinese Lunar New Year, discovering the special foods, symbols and traditions that make each celebration unique. Through stories, art and hands-on activities, students developed an appreciation for the many ways people celebrate with their families and communities across different cultures.



**Kindergarten Team**

**Jessica Laing and Ali Ringland**  
**K-2 Executive Teacher: Kristy Grady**

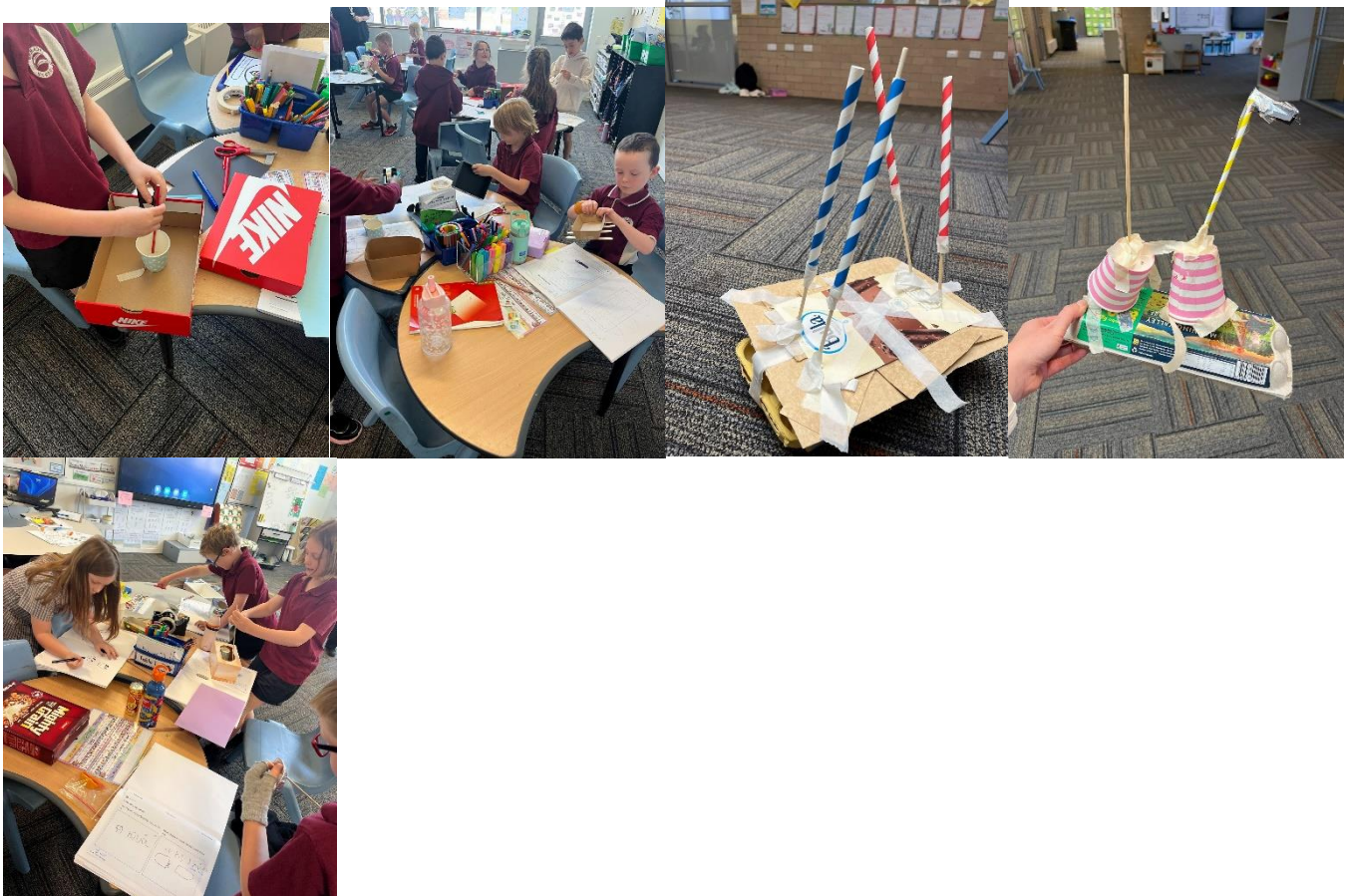
## YEAR 1 and 2

### Design and Technology

This term in Design and Technology, students have embarked on a creative challenge: building pirate ships out of recycled materials! We began by sharing what we already knew about boats and identifying what we were curious to learn. From there, we set ourselves the challenge of creating a pirate ship that not only used recycled materials but could also float.

Students brainstormed the challenges they might face and came up with clever solutions. They sketched and planned their ships, thinking carefully about which materials would work best. To test their ideas, we explored the concept of density and experimented to see which materials would sink or float. This hands-on learning helped refine their designs before collecting the resources they needed.

When the construction began, it was wonderful to see creativity and innovation as the pirate ships came to life. Finally, we tested our boats in water to see if they could float! This was a highlight and a celebration of all their hard work!



### Mathematics

In Mathematics this week, students have been developing their understanding of positional language. They have been practising the concepts of left and right, while discussing different strategies to support their learning. Through a range of activities, students followed directions and applied positional language to complete drawings, and activities.



## Year 1 and 2 Team

Jordan Glavinic, and Kimberly Circosta

K-2 Executive Teacher: Kristy Grady

Acting Executive – Trista Ellison

## YEAR 3 and 4

### Solar Oven Science in Action!

Students have been putting their science learning into practice by designing and building their very own solar ovens. Drawing on their understanding of materials and the states of matter, they carefully selected recyclable materials that could reflect, absorb, or transmit heat to support their oven design. The final test was both scientific and delicious — using their solar ovens to cook s'mores under the sun!





'I love that we get the opportunity to be creative and make things like solar ovens and penguin insulators for the Rescue Challenge'. - Neave R 4LW

'If you want to make a solar oven, I recommend making it with black materials or painting it because it heats up really quickly'. - Sarah W 4LW

'I am glad that I got the opportunity and challenge to make and test my own solar oven. I enjoyed learning about materials that can reflect, absorb and transmit because this helped me make a successful solar oven'. - Chloe C 4KH

'I made a window to transmit the sun into my large solar oven box. It worked well to melt the smores and ice'. - Zac C 3LW

Year 3/4 Team –

**Kyleigh Howell, Mandy Roseler, Cintha Thompson, Lindel Warry**

3/4 Executive Teacher: Anthea Theodoridis



### Message from the Green Force Team

Thank you to our wonderful families who visited and supported our plant stall in Week 3! Our students carefully planted each seed, nurtured them with care, and watched as our greenhouse helped the seedlings flourish. We hope you enjoy your plants as much as we enjoy growing them!

### Garden Buddies

Upper and lower primary classes have been joining forces in the garden to tackle our spring planting and weeding. Students are beginning to build meaningful connections as they learn and work alongside both older and younger peers.



### Paper clay creations!

Students in Years 5 and 6 are proud of their paper clay creations from our design unit. After planning their ideas, they used recycled shopping bags, flour, and salt to build their own unique structures.



### Tasty delights!

Recently in the kitchen, K-2 students prepared a herby couscous salad, building their confidence in measuring, safely cutting herbs, and following simple step-by-step instructions. Years 3-6 created spanakopita, developing their skills in mixing fillings, brushing pastry, and folding neat triangles.

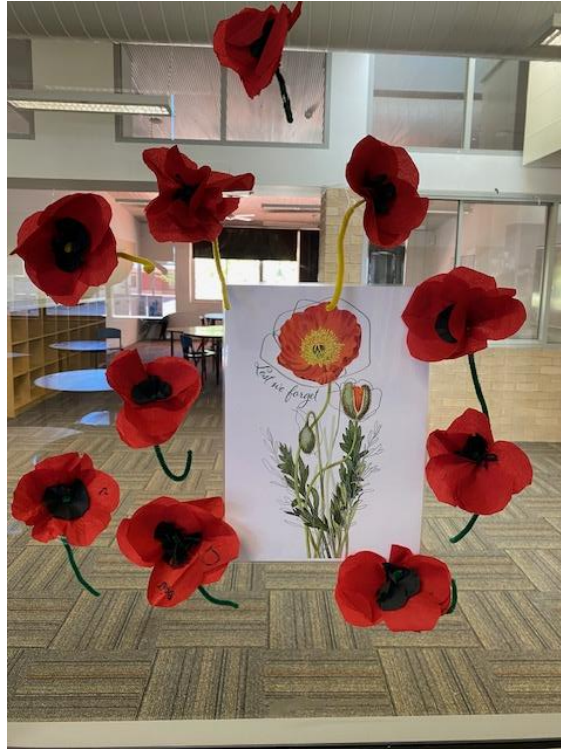


**Kitchen Garden Team**  
K-2 Teacher Kathryn Glanville  
3-6 Teacher Lydia Desmet  
Kitchen Garden Assistant Julie  
Executive Teacher Anthea Theodoridis

## SENIOR SCHOOL

### Small Group

In Humanities, 7/8 SGP have been learning about how people around the world celebrate important events, traditions, and milestones. Students are investigating a range of cultural, religious, and national celebrations and learn about their meanings, customs, symbols, and foods.



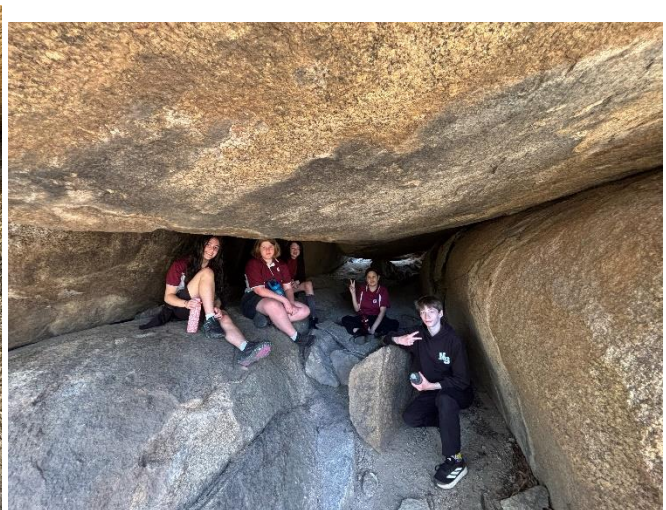


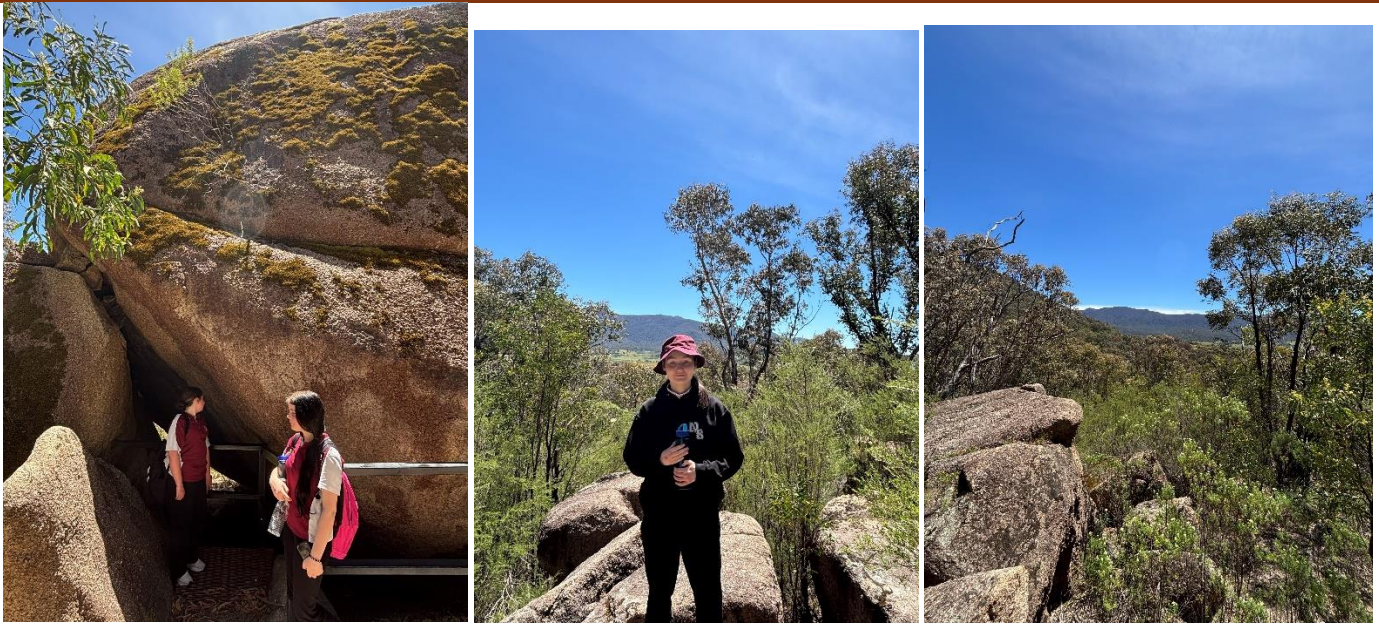
**Small Group Program – Ms Wright, Mr. H, Ms McLoughlin, Ms. Burns, Gai, Sam, Hawani and Kelly.**

## Maths and Science

Our Year 8 students recently enjoyed a very exciting excursion to Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, where they walked the Time Trail, a 3 km heritage loop that takes about an hour to complete. This trail explores sites of Ngunnawal cultural significance—including ancient rock shelters—and provided students with a meaningful way to connect their geology learning with the natural environment and Indigenous field locations. The weather was fantastic, the students were wonderful, and overall it was a great day out. A big thank you to all the teachers who helped organise and support this excursion.

In Year 7 Science, students are currently creating posters on Earth and Space Science. Their topics include seasons, moon phases, and solar and lunar eclipses. Our Year 8 Science students are moving on to tectonic plates. *Fun fact: the tectonic plates move about as fast as your fingernails grow—only a few centimetres a year!* Year 9 Science is studying the carbon cycle and exploring how carbon moves through living things, the atmosphere, and our oceans. And finally, Year 10 Science students are finishing the year with the Big Bang Theory. *Fun fact: the “fuzziness” you used to see on old TVs when they couldn’t find a channel? A tiny part of that static was leftover radiation from the Big Bang!*





In Mathematics, Years 7, 9 and 10 are all wrapping up the year by learning about probability. *Fun fact: if you flip a coin 100 times, it's actually very unlikely you'll get exactly 50 heads and 50 tails—probability doesn't guarantee perfect balance!* Our Year 8 Maths students are learning about linear graphs and practising how to solve equations.

As we head toward the end of the year, we're proud of how far our students have come—we can't believe they're nearly another year older! Let's finish the year strong.

**Emily Corke, Amy McFarlane, Jade Payne, Charlie Bradshaw, Alicia Nguyen & Dhanashree Vedanti**  
**Executive Teacher: Stacey Freedman**

## HPE, Arts & Tech

### Health and Physical Education

Year 7 have just finished their sports rotation and are now moving on to a new unit of cricket. They have also completed their health topic on sun safety and water hazards, where they contributed to insightful discussions in this area.

This term, our Year 8 students have been exploring the vital topics of cyber safety, digital footprints, and responsible social media use. They are learning how to protect personal information online, recognise suspicious activity, and understand that every post, like, and share contributes to their lasting digital identity. Through discussions on respectful communication, screen time management, and the impact of online behaviour, they are discovering that thoughtful choices in the digital world are just as important as those made in real life.

During the past six weeks, Year 9 and 10 students engaged in a demanding but fulfilling Sport Leadership unit. Each group was tasked with designing and teaching a lesson to the rest of the class, choosing their preferred sport as the focus. Within the groups, students selected their own responsibilities—some took on coaching or coordinating roles, while others handled tasks like scoring, officiating equipment, or managing teams. Overall, the unit proved highly successful, as most students enhanced their self-confidence and mutual respect while leading their peers.

### Music

What an incredible finish to the term! Our music students have completed their original compositions, with some fabulous ideas and creations.

From intricate chord progressions to imaginative melodies, each piece reflected the skills they've been building in theory and instrumental practice. It was inspiring to see how confidently they combined their skills in this task.

Their individual and group musicianship skills were also on display during class practical time. It is great to see what they achieved, and I can't wait to see how they continue to grow as composers and performers in the future!

### Recreation and Leisure: Embracing New Challenges!

Our Year 9 and 10 Recreation and Leisure class has been stepping up to the crease and learning a fun, familiar sport with a twist: Backyard Cricket!

While participation levels can vary, we are incredibly proud of our students' attitudes. They consistently demonstrate a fantastic willingness to give new things a go, approaching this new unit with open minds and a readiness to try out their batting, bowling, and fielding skills, backyard-style. This positive attitude is the essence of our class!

### Southside Basketball Competition

We have had a big couple of weeks, with Namadgi students representing our school at the Secondary South Basketball Competitions. Students had a fantastic time and showed exceptional sportsmanship on the day. For our 9/10 boys' team, despite finishing third in their pool, Namadgi showed great determination to progress to the semi-finals, going down by only two points. They fought hard throughout the game and never gave up.



**Steph Johnston, Josh Hart, Lauren Gartside, Charlie Doherty, Aliena van den Boogaard, Maua Tusa**  
**Executive Teacher: Hayley Borg**

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION



**Namadgi Breakfast Club**

Every Morning  
8:30 till 8:50am  
in our Kitchen Garden

*Sandwiches*  
*Fruit*  
*Toast*  
*Cereals*




**NAMADGI Uniform Shop**

FRIDAYS: 3:00 – 3:30 PM

**We collect second hand uniforms that are in good condition**

Please drop donations to the Front Office




**Do you have a little one attending Preschool at Namadgi in 2026?**

We would like to welcome 2026 Namadgi preschool students to visit our school each Wednesday morning. Your child will have the opportunity to do some craft activities, meet other 2026 preschool students and familiarise themselves with our school before next year.

For more information contact  
Aly - [alison.cleaver@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:alison.cleaver@ed.act.edu.au)




**Thank you**

**coles**

for the generous donation of pantry goods that will help us to support our community





**NAMADGI COMMUNITY PRODUCE**

Each week Namadgi School receives fresh produce for our community from One Box.

**THE ONE BOX**

You can collect **FREE** fresh produce from outside the front office each Thursday



**SAVE THE DATE**

**Namadgi School Christmas Concert Evening**

Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> December

## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS™



The next Holiday Happenings edition is now available online.

To see the *Programs, Activities & Events* happening these holidays go to:

[www.holidayhappenings.com.au/online-booklet](http://www.holidayhappenings.com.au/online-booklet)

## Help Our Kambah Community

We are collecting donations of pantry items to gift to our community

**PLEASE DROP DONATIONS OFF TO OUR SCHOOL FRONT OFFICE**

ITEMS YOU CAN DONATE:

- RICE
- CANNED FOOD
- CANNED FRUIT
- NOODLE
- CRACKERS
- PASTA SAUCE



**Ages 5-13**

## Holiday Camps on sale now!



**MINECRAFT • ROBLOX • Coding**  
**Robotics • Animation • Craft & more**

Book now at [codecamp.com.au/flyer](http://codecamp.com.au/flyer)

**SAVE \$25** Use coupon code **FLYER25** at checkout

Supported by **W GROUP**



## POP SHOP

a vinnies youth initiative

Pop Shop offers free, recycled clothing for youth aged 12 - 20\*  
Because we all want to fit in and be comfortable.

**Where:** Mura Lanyon Youth & Community Centre  
22 Sidney Nolan St Conder ACT

**When:** 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Dec  
12pm - 5:30pm

\*Limits to number of free clothing items apply



**Free clothes** to all young people aged 12-20 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of December between 12pm and 5:30pm. Drop in to the Pop Shop at YWCA Mura Lanyon Youth and Community Centre to pick from a wide selection of quality used clothing for all genders.