

Week 9 Term 4

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

Week 10 is looming, and the end of another school year is nearly upon us. I would like to thank our staff, students, families and the greater Namadgi School community for their contributions and support to delivering education and wellbeing programs in 2025. Feedback from the School Satisfaction Survey was very positive across the school community and highlighted the positive progress and development of school plans and community relationships.

Thank you to our P&C and School Board who were once again a tremendous support during the year. From BELT breakfasts, fundraisers, Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls, the P&C and Board have donated their time to raise much needed funds for students and school programs. In 2025, the P&C contributed towards end of year graduations and Formals for students, paid for buses for excursions and funded resources for our award-winning Kitchen Garden program. Their funding support has helped across the school and assisted in keeping classroom consumable costs as low as possible. With help from our Year 10's and community volunteers, Rhodina and the team have worked tirelessly to ensure funds kept rolling in.

In 2025 the school received great support from parents and carers via voluntary contributions, subject contributions, the library trust fund and preschool contributions. I would like to thank everyone who was able to support a financial contribution as this funding goes directly to consumables, library resources and learning materials from Preschool to Year 10. This is a much needed additional resource mechanism and impacts all students. If you would like to make a contribution in 2025 there is still time. Please visit the school web page and following the links to make a payment or contact the front office team.

A burning question I am often asked towards the end of each year is.... Which staff are working with what cohort next year. At this time, I can announce the following, bearing in mind things can change over the school holiday period.

Our staff team in our Primary School for 2026 includes:

Preschool	- Bec Buchanan, Cindy Treverrow and Mel Goodridge
Kindergarten	- Trista Ellison, Danni Smith, TBA
Year 1/2	- Jess Laing, Jordan Glavinic, Briana Gracie, Susie Deards
Year 3/4	- Cintha Thompson, Kyleigh Howell and Amanda Roseler
Year 5/6	- Edward Jones, Caitlin Walker, Femke Matthews, Emma McLoed
Small group	- Belinda Rathborne, Cindy Somenek and Lindel Warry
Specialist Teachers	- Shannon Black, Kathryn Glanville, Lydia Desmet, Tom Murdock
Executive staff	- Liz Baker-Matterson, Kristy Grady, Anthea Theodoridis, Emma Vince and Craig Lambert

Our staff team in our Secondary School for 2026 will remain the same as 2025 and we welcome David Hromow (HPE) and Bronia Cameron (small group program) to our community. We will also welcome back Maddie Clayden from maternity leave, stepping back into the leadership role of the HPE team, and Joseph Nadler returning to Namadgi School as executive teacher of the English and Humanities faculty.

Thank you to our community for supporting the Carols Night and all of the end of year engagements including graduations. Parents and carers play a critical role in supporting their child at school and we appreciate your efforts to engage with staff for the best outcomes possible.

Please take care during the summer break and use this time to re-energise and connect with family and friends. The Namadgi community has been extremely supportive in 2025, and I am delighted to be able to work in our school every day and look forward to another exciting year in 2026.

Good luck to our graduating and departing students in 2025. We wish you all the very best and thank you for your time with us at Namadgi School. For those completing the 12 year journey from Preschool to Year 10, I would like to thank you and your families for being a long-time advocate for Namadgi School.

If you see any suspicious activity in and around the school during the school holiday period, please contact ACT Policing on 131444.



On behalf of the Namadgi Team, have a Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Thank you,

Gareth Richards

Principal – Namadgi School

Preschool



What a fabulous year of wonder and learning at Namadgi preschool!!



The growth observed over the year is amazing. We have learnt so much about being at school and had wonderful experiences making friends, experimenting and exploring. We have all loved being at preschool, developed a sense of belonging and become respectful, safe learners.

Our tadpoles have grown but sadly no legs have appeared before we have to return them to Frog watch next week. We have still loved watching them grow and move about during the day though. We are also still loving watching our silkworm which have all now cocooned, hatched and are laying eggs to start the cycle again. We are so lucky to have these experiences at preschool.



We are finishing the year learning about celebrations and planning ways to celebrate with our families. After LOTS of practising, we had a great time celebrating at our end of year concert and loved showing our families our fabulous singing and dancing, if you weren't able to make it have a look at seesaw to see how great we were. We have been

busy creating surprises for our families too, we hope you love them



We have also been visiting our kindergarten classrooms and are preparing for next years big adventures.

Thank you for sharing your child's first year of schooling with us, we feel privileged to share this time with them.

Have a happy and safe holidays



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

Reminder: No photography or filming on preschool grounds

To keep every child safe and protect their privacy, we ask all parents and carers to follow an important rule: no photography or filming on preschool grounds or during school events.

This policy supports our commitment to a child safe environment and follows the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority's National Model Code. The Code provides best practice guidelines for managing images and videos of children and the use of personal devices in early childhood settings.

Here's what this means at our preschool:

- Photos and videos will only be taken on school-issued devices. Clear protocols ensure these images are stored, used, and eventually deleted responsibly.
- Staff personal devices can only be carried if authorised and documented. Staff and volunteers must not have personal devices on them while working with children unless approval is on file.
- On preschool grounds, all adults – including parents and carers – must not use personal devices to take photos or videos.
- During school events, please do not take photos or videos. This helps everyone enjoy the moment while protecting children's privacy.

These measures help us protect children's privacy and maintain a safe and respectful environment for learning and play. Thank you for supporting these important guidelines.

Keep smiling!

The Preschool Team

Rebecca Buchanan, Cindy Treverrow

Puneet Sandhu, Lesley Charlton & Jodie Tolson

Executive Teacher: Emma Vince

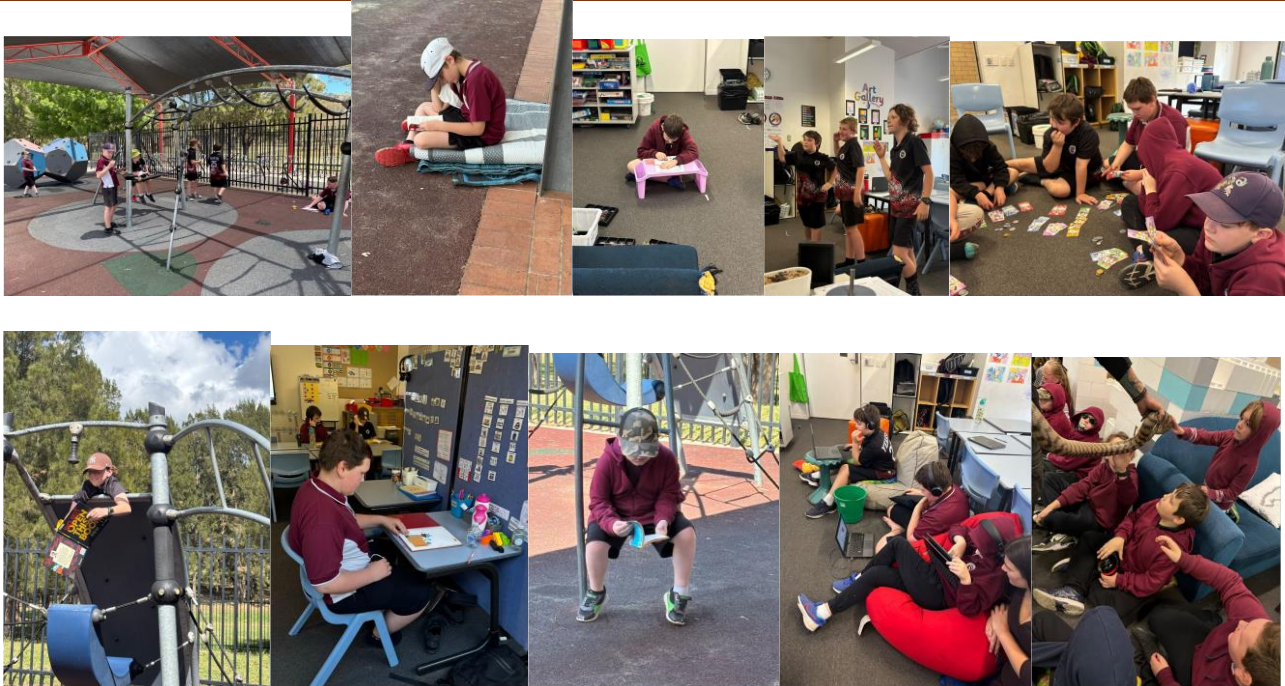
K-6 Small Group Program K-2LSUBR, 3-6LSUCS & 3-6LSUMS

As the school year draws to a close, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the students, families and staff who have supported our SGP community. It truly takes a village to raise a child, and we feel incredibly privileged to work with such wonderful young people in our Small Group Programs.

For our final newsletter item, we're sharing some of our favourite moments from 2025—a snapshot of the growth, teamwork and resilience we've seen throughout the year. Well done to our students for consistently putting your best foot forward, bouncing back after challenges, and striving to be the best version of yourselves each day.

Have a fantastic holiday break, and we look forward to welcoming you back in 2026!





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

KINDERGARTEN

Kindy worked very hard on learning the songs '5 Little Elves' and 'Hello Reindeer' for the Christmas Carols event on Monday night. It was lovely to see so many families enjoy this community event. The children were very excited to perform for their families.

To conclude our Fairytale Narrative Unit, we worked on a STEM design project. Each student in Kindergarten chose to either design a 'strong house for a fourth little pig' or 'ladder to help Rapunzel escape her tower'. Students used their learning from our 'Perfect Package' unit to identify materials that would be effective based on their properties.





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

YEAR 1 and 2

Year 1/2 students worked hard to learn the words and actions for their two Christmas carols that they enjoyed performing for the many families who attended our Christmas carols on Monday night. We even made red-nosed kangaroo headbands to sing Kanga Rudolf!



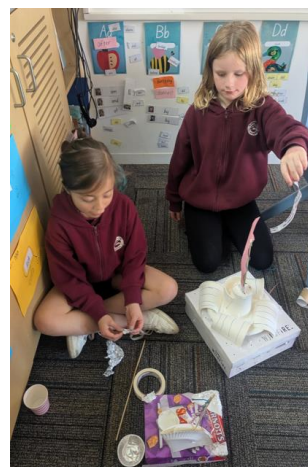
We have been learning about celebrations and enjoyed learning all about Diwali where we received a tea light for the festival of lights. Other celebrations we have learnt about include Ramadan, Valentines Day, Halloween, Panagbenga (flower festival), Lunar New Year, Holi and the unit will culminate with Christmas in Week 10.



Students in 1/2 have investigated games from their past including 'Knuckles', elastics, hopscotch and more. These games have proven to be a real hit with students. We have been enjoying collaborating and developing cooperative skills through these games.



Students enjoyed testing the Pirate Ships they designed and made from recycled materials. Rich and insightful discussions were had about the suitability of specific materials.



Year 1 and 2 Team
Jordan Glavinic, and Kimberly Circosta
K-2 Executive Teacher: Kristy Grady
Acting Executive – Trista Ellison

YEAR 3 and 4

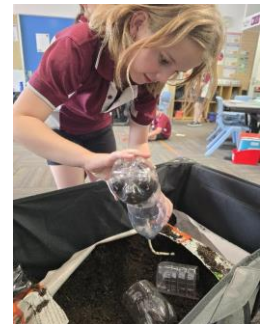
Grade 3/4 Science Update — Exploring the Water Cycle!

This term in Science, our Grade 3/4 students became *mini environmental engineers* as they learned all about the water cycle. To help bring their learning to life, students worked collaboratively to build their very own terrariums!

Using two recycled soft drink bottles, a piece of cord, soil, and a single bean seed, each student constructed a small, closed environment that mimics nature's water cycle. Once assembled, the terrariums were placed on the classroom windowsill, where students will observe:

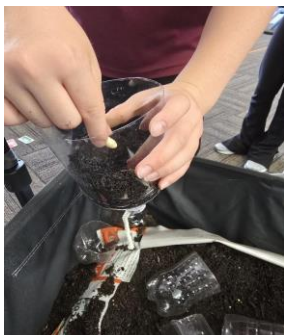
- **Evaporation** as water warms and rises
- **Condensation** as moisture forms on the sides of the bottle
- **Precipitation** as droplets fall back into the soil
- **Plant growth** as their bean seedlings begin to sprout

Students showed fantastic teamwork, curiosity, and care throughout the activity. We can't wait to see how their plants grow—and how their understanding of the water cycle grows along with them!



"I liked everything about it including nurturing the

"I loved that we



"I like how we



Year 3/4 Team –

Kyleigh Howell, Mandy Roseler, Cintha Thompson, Lindel Warry

3/4 Executive Teacher: Anthea Theodoridis

KITCHEN GARDEN NEWS

A Proud Moment for Namadgi School!

We are thrilled to announce that our Kitchen Garden team has won the Sustainable Buddies Award at the 2025 Climate Choices Schools Awards! This achievement reflects years of dedication to sustainability and hands-on learning.

Adding to the celebration, our Year 1 student Elizabeth Caswell won the Sustainability Steps Poster competition for the Year 1 & 2 category—what an incredible effort!

Namadgi School is currently a Two-Star accredited school in the ACT Schools Sustainability Program. Here's what 2 Stars represent:

- Discovery & Action: Investigating local sustainability issues and reducing resource use.
- Student Leadership: Empowering students as changemakers.
- Meaningful Progress: Completing the waste module and improving practices.
- Core Commitment: Maintaining consistency and dedication through the Core Module.



This recognition inspires us to aim higher. Five stars, here we come!



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

News from the School Psychologist

Did you know about 96% of Australian kids aged 10–17 use social media? Around 70% of them come across harmful content - things like hateful or misogynistic messaging, violent material, or content encouraging disordered eating and self-harm.

To help protect young people, the Australian Government is introducing new rules from 10 December that will restrict social media access for our under-16s.

If you'd like to understand what this means for you as a parent, carer, or teacher - and how you can support our teen online - you can learn more at the eSafety Hub:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/industry-regulation/social-media-age-restrictions-hub>

REQUEST FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL



RESOURCES FOR OUR PLAYGROUND



We are seeking good second-hand resources for our outdoor play areas. Please keep this in mind over the holiday break when doing your summer cleaning

-  • Small cars, trucks, vehicles
-  • Sandpit toys, plastic containers, metal pots, plastic shovels, and pans
-  • Dolls & fairy garden resources
-  • Building equipment, Duplo & construction toys

SENIOR SCHOOL

Small Group

SGP 2025 We had a number of students graduate from Year 10 in the Small Group Program; Bryce Andrews, Dylan Rentmeester, Jesse Rentmeester, Josh Watts, Justin Alvarez, Riley Essex, Cris Ferrera Licon, Ruby Reid and Zara Connors. (Heath Bennett, Isabella Roberts). We are very proud of these students. They have worked very hard this year improving attendance, academic achievement, literacy and individual learning goals. The students had a great night at the Formal. They all looked Superb! One of the highlights of the night was Dylan, Jesse and Ruby all arriving in the twin's fathers own Kenworth truck followed by an army of bikes.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM SGP!





MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM 9/10 SGP!

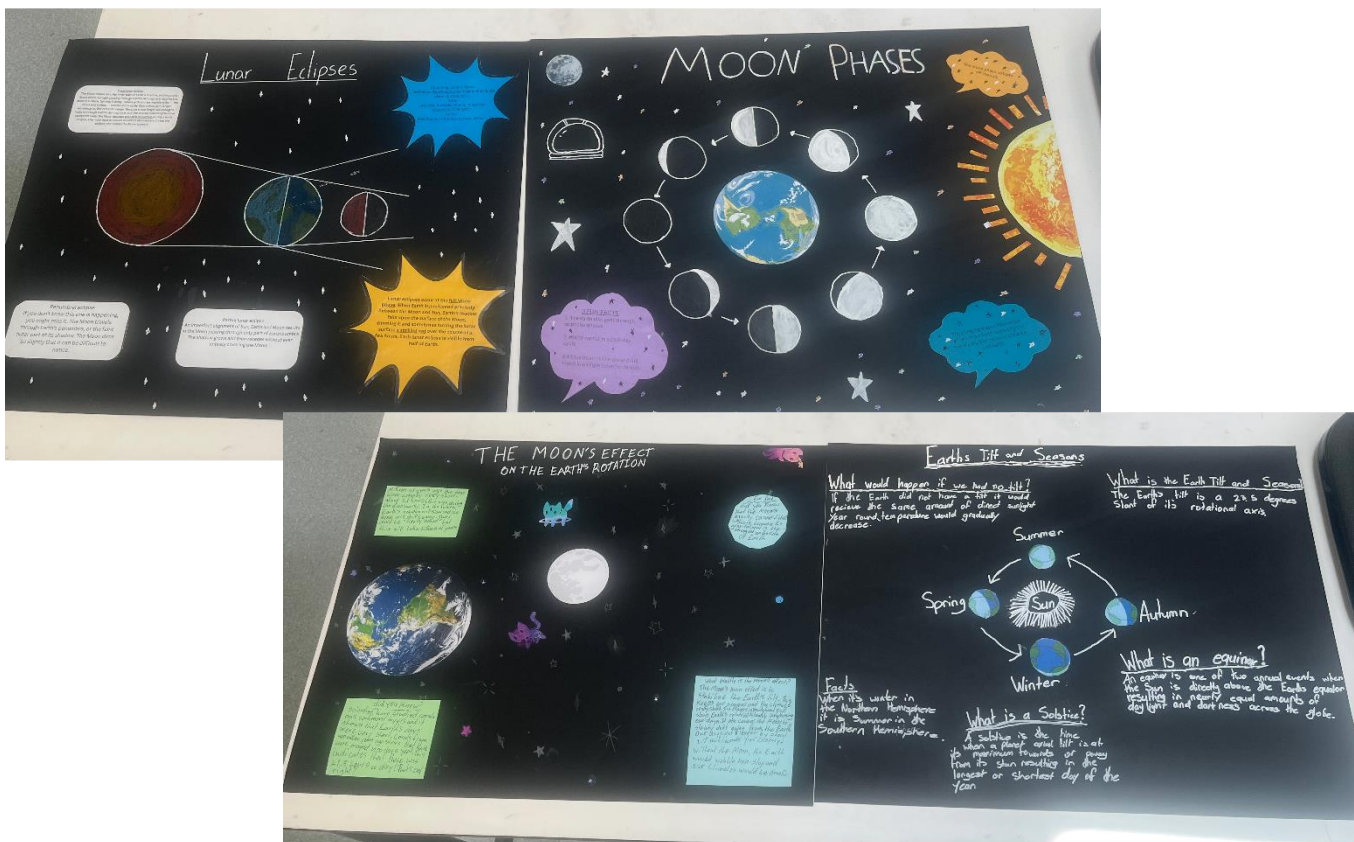


Small Group Program – Ms Wright, Mr. H, Ms McLoughlin, Ms. Burns, Gai, Sam, Hawani and Kelly.

Maths and Science

Over the past few weeks, our maths and science classrooms have been full of hands-on learning, problem-solving, and creative thinking.

Year 7 Scientists wrapped up their unit on Earth and Space Science by creating eye-catching posters on one of three topics: the phases of the moon, the changing seasons, or solar and lunar eclipses. Students did a fantastic job explaining some very big ideas in clear, colourful ways. Fun fact: Lunar eclipses usually occur about twice a

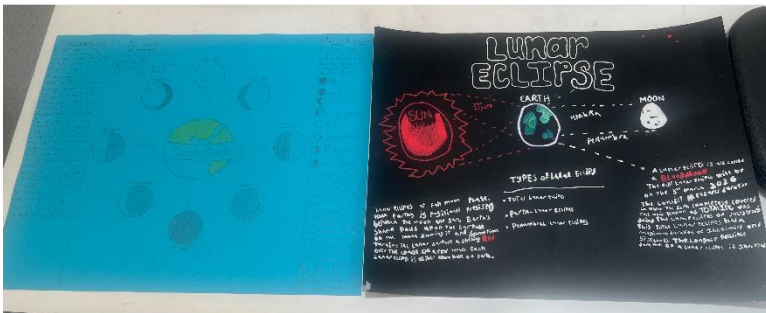


year somewhere in the world. Year 8 Scientists completed their study of tectonic plates with an explosive (but safe!) volcano-building activity. They explored how volcanoes are closely linked to tectonic plates — most form at plate boundaries where plates collide, move apart, or slide over hotspots in the Earth's mantle. Year 9 Science students have spent the term caring for their terrariums as part of their exploration of the carbon cycle. These mini-ecosystems helped students observe how carbon moves between plants, animals, the air, and the soil.

Year 7 Mathematicians applied their new knowledge of probability by conducting their own hands-on trials using dice. Many students discovered that the more trials you conduct, the closer your results get to the expected

theoretical probability — a great real-world lesson in statistics. Year 8 Maths have just finished an application task on linear graphs, using them to model everyday scenarios. Students worked on interpreting, creating, and explaining graphs that show real-life relationships. Year 9 Maths also wrapped up their probability unit, completing a task that used spreadsheets to simulate rounds of Rock, Paper, Scissors. Students not only explored probability concepts but strengthened their IT and data-analysis skills along the way.

And finally, our wonderful Year 10 students have now finished for the year. The Maths and Science team wishes them all the very best in their future pathways — we are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved.





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

Service in Action! Exhibition – Wellbeing Team Update

Throughout Term 4, our Pastoral Care (PC) classes have been hard at work on their Service in Action! projects. Students took full ownership of the process — selecting a charity, outlining the purpose of their project, and delegating roles within their classes. Their goal was to develop an information booth that educated and inspired others about their chosen organisation.

Last Thursday, the school community came together for the Service in Action! Exhibition, where each homegroup proudly presented their booth. The standard of displays was outstanding, showcasing creativity, teamwork, and genuine passion for helping others. Students, staff, and visitors cast their votes, and we are excited to share the winners:

- **Overall Winner:** Cancer Council
- **Best Eye-Catching Display:** RSPCA
- **Best Information:** Black Dog Institute
- **Best Resources:** Plan International

A huge congratulations to all PC classes and everyone involved. It was a fantastic term of planning, collaboration, and community spirit, culminating in a vibrant and meaningful exhibition.







Jade Payne, Nathan Kalinowski, Ben Raven.
Executive Teacher: Hayley Borg

HPE, Arts & Tech

Health and Physical Education Year in Review

What an incredible year it's been in Health and Physical Education at Namadgi School! Our students have thrown themselves into a diverse range of activities, from high-energy sports to essential health education, building skills, fitness, and resilience every step of the way.

Physical Education Highlights

- Our Year 9/10 Boys Basketball team securing 3rd place at the South Side Basketball Gala Day – a fantastic achievement that showcased teamwork, hustle, and skill under pressure.
- Year 7 students lit up the dance floor during our Term 3 dance unit, with numerous students pulling off some serious moves.
- As summer arrives, we're wrapping up with cricket across all year groups, embracing the spirit of the cricket season.

Health Education

All students excelled in their Health units, tackling real-world topics like sun-safety, party-safety, and online-safety. These units have aimed to equip students to make smart choices beyond the classroom.

A huge thank you to students for their enthusiasm, staff for their dedication, and parents for their support. Let's carry this momentum into next year.

Technologies (Design and Food)

Students from the Yr7 Design and Food electives recently joined forces in an exciting cross-disciplinary workshop. Together, they tackled a real-world design challenge: creating packaging solutions for fast food. They have demonstrated a variety of skills in this space including collaboration, teamwork, critical and creative thinking. Once the project is completed, students will present their design ideas to the year 7 cohort. We look forward to seeing their projects come to life!

Dance

We wrapped up 2025 in Dance with our Dance Showcase in week 3. Secondary students performed alongside primary students in a celebratory concert showcasing all their hard work from the year.

The audience members were encouraging and respectful and we appreciate those families who took the time to come along and support.

The Year 8 rotation for Term 4 completed their course with enthusiasm and have covered a wide range of content in a short timeframe. From Hip Hop to Bollywood, students completed a performance and composition tasks, as well as written tasks to a high standard. Well done Year 8 on your willingness to learn and develop your creativity!

It has been an amazing year for Namadgi dance students, performing at various events such as the ACT Public School Dance Comp, Step into the Limelight, school assemblies, and our dance showcase. At each event students represented the school with respect and pride, demonstrating the versatility as performers as well as being friendly and supportive backstage.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the students and families who have supported all the above events this year, I have enjoyed teaching Dance and watching all the students shine on stage. I will be moving on from Namadgi in 2026 and hope that the students love of Dance continues to grow.

Lauren Chard

Steph Johnston, Josh Hart, Lauren Gartside, Charlie Doherty, Aliena van den Boogaard, Lauren Chard, Maua Tusa

Executive Teacher: Hayley Borg

Textiles

This term, our Year 8 Textiles students have been busy exploring their creativity through an exciting design project. They have learned about the design process, from brainstorming ideas to bringing their concepts to life. Students practiced both hand sewing techniques and machine sewing skills to create unique and imaginative toys.

Each toy was designed with a specific age group in mind, and students carefully considered safety requirements and appropriate materials to ensure their creations were fit for purpose. The results have been fantastic—thoughtful designs that combine creativity, functionality, and attention to detail.

We are so proud of the effort and innovation shown by our Year 8 students this term!



Year 9/10 Textiles Sustainable Creativity with Upcycled Denim

This semester, our Year 9 and 10 Textiles students embraced sustainability and creativity by transforming old denim jeans into exciting new products. Through the design process, they generated innovative ideas and applied their sewing skills to give discarded materials a second life.

Students demonstrated problem-solving, craftsmanship, and environmental awareness, creating items that are not only stylish but also practical. From bags and accessories to dog toys, their work highlights how upcycling can reduce waste while encouraging creative thinking.

We are proud of the students' commitment to sustainability and the impressive quality of their finished products!





Executive Teacher: Bea Hale

Year 10 Celebrations: A Week to Remember

It has been a whirlwind week for our Year 10 cohort as they celebrated the completion of their years at Namadgi School. We are incredibly proud of the maturity and spirit displayed by the students across major milestones: the Year 10 Walkout Ceremony, the Year 10 Formal, and the Graduation Ceremony.

It was a perfect balance of celebration and recognition, marking the transition into their final years of schooling.

Kicking Off with Style: The Year 10 Formal

The celebrations began with a night of glamour and fun at the Year 10 Formal, held at Hellenic Club Woden on Wednesday December 3rd. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students to step away from their studies, dress up, and enjoy each other's company.

Students arrived looking fantastic and the atmosphere was electric from the start, with a packed dance floor and plenty of memories captured in the photobooth.





The Finale: Graduation Ceremony

Following the excitement of the formal, the cohort came together one last time for the official Graduation Ceremony in VPAC on Wednesday December 10th. This event served as the formal culmination of their years at Namadgi School.

In front of proud parents, guardians, and teachers, the Year 10 Class of 2025 received their graduation certificates. We also took the time to recognize specific students who have excelled in academics, sports, and community service:

Lions Club Academic Award	Julia Daun
Namadgi School All-Rounder Award	Julia Daun
ADF Long Tan Award	Nicola Howell
ACT Excellence Award	Eli Henderson, Zharlene Jacusalem, Alice Kipling
ADF Future Innovators STEM Award	Bryce Andrews
ACU Year 10 Award	Ethan Appel
Vikings Club Outstanding Sportsperson Award	Leonard Tun

Namadgi School Legends Award	Rin Waters
Namadgi School Values Award	Isabella Roberts
Principals Award	Emily O'Hagan, Cohen Woodbury, Ayman Al Kahhaleh
Namadgi School P&C Award	Gemma Irwin
Namadgi School Trade Award	Jack Kelly
Namadgi School Band Award	Liam Coghlan
Tuggeranong Valley Community Council Award	Caitlin O'Donoghue
Pam Rosser Languages Award	Adriana Russell
South Training Recognition of Excellence Award in VET	Nicola Howell

Thank you very much to our sponsors for the awards. We greatly appreciate their generosity in supplying prizes and certificates.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, a commemorative cake was cut by Mr Richards and the school captains, Zharlene Jacusalem and Sev Ferrer, and vice captains, Nicola Howell and Leonard Tun.

We wish all our students the best in college or chosen pathway! Good luck!



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



**Playgroup Christmas
Party**

Wednesday December 17th
9:00am till 11:00am

Come dressed in your festive wear
and bring your Christmas cheer.



**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





Gifts of joy
END OF YEAR GOODS DRIVE

A little gift can spark a lot of joy
Help local children feel safe,
warm and included.

GIFTS OF JOY COME IN MANY FORMS
WE ARE COLLECTING

roundabout
CANBERRA



Festive gifts for
newborns to teens

We are collecting gifts on behalf of
Roundabout Canberra. Please place **BRAND**
NEW gifts under the tree in the front office.

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



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