



# Bungaree Primary School Newsletter



Term 2, Week 2  
1st May, 2026

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**Principal:** Catherine Barnes

*Respect*

*Positivity*

*Determination*

*Creativity*

*We would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which we all live and learn, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community. We acknowledge the Wadawurrung people of the Kulin Nation, where we share a place of belonging. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and thank them for taking care of this country over countless generations.*

*Koling wada-ngal (Let us walk together)*

## From the Principal

Hello everyone,

Welcome to Term 2. It has been wonderful to see our students return refreshed, settled, and ready for another term of learning. We began the term with two significant commemorations—our school ANZAC Service and the Bungaree community ceremony. Both events were marked by a deep sense of respect, gratitude, and reflection. I was incredibly proud of the way our students represented our school. Their conduct, attentiveness, and genuine appreciation for the meaning of ANZAC Day were evident throughout both services.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Bungaree & District Historical Society for their organisation and leadership in bringing our community together for the Bungaree service. Their ongoing commitment to honouring ANZAC traditions helps strengthen the connection between our school and the wider community. Thank you also to our students and staff for their thoughtful preparation, and to our families for making the time to attend and support these important occasions.

This term, our whole school learning focus turns to Science, explored through a range of lenses across year levels. Students will be encouraged to question, investigate, test ideas, and think critically as they build their scientific curiosity and endeavour. It promises to be an exciting term of discovery, and we look forward to seeing students embrace their role as young scientists.

Term 2 is also a busy sporting term, particularly for our Seniors and our enthusiastic “Junior Seniors” in Year 3. With a number of events, clinics, and opportunities on the horizon, it’s important to stay up to date with the school calendar and keep an eye on Compass for excursion and event approvals as they appear. Your timely responses help ensure smooth organisation and full participation for all students.

Please keep an eye on Facebook and Compass for school updates. As always, keep safe and look after yourself, your family, friends and neighbours. Stay grateful, kind and mindful, as we say and do in school.

Miss Catherine Barnes, **Principal**

## Calendar

### May

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Friday 1st           | Bulldogs Read Ballarat Library visit then Lake Wendouree picnic   |
| Tuesday 5th          | School Council meeting  |
| Wednesday 6th        | Wallace & District Kinder visit (selected students with Ms K)   |
| Thursday 7th         | Wathaurung Team Sports Day in Ballarat, Years 3-6   |
| Friday 8th           | MARC Van in/Cooking Day; Mothers and Special Ladies Day Stall   |
| Tuesday 12th         | Sovereign District Soccer (if selected)   |
| Thursday 14th        | Wathaurung Athletics Carnival at Llanberris Reserve   |
| Friday 15th          | Bulldogs Read (whole school) Whitten Oval excursion. Early start and early finish from Ballan Train Station. Details on Compass soon. |
| Tues 19th-Thurs 21st | Scholastic Book Fair. Get excited!  |
| Wednesday 20th       | Sovereign District AFL Football (if selected)   |
| Friday 22nd          | MARC Van in/Cooking Day; Walk to School Safely Day  |
| Wednesday 27th       | STEEM incursion—Marble Run  |

### June

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Monday 1st        | Sovereign District Netball (if selected)                                   |
| Friday 5th        | MARC Van in/Cooking Day  |
| Monday 8th        | King’s Birthday holiday—SCHOOL CLOSED                                      |
| Tuesday 9th       | School Council meeting   |
| Tues 9th-Wed 10th | Wathaurung Year 5 Sovereign Hill Program                                   |
| Friday 19th       | MARC Van in/Cooking Day  |
| Thursday 25th     | Student Showcase; Semester 1 Reports published                             |
| Friday 26th       | Last day of Term 2, 2:30pm dismissal. Term 3 resumes on Monday, 13th July. |

## Junior Maths

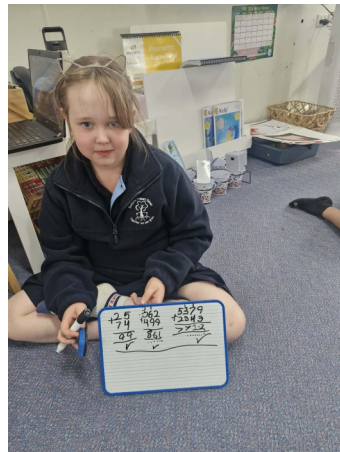
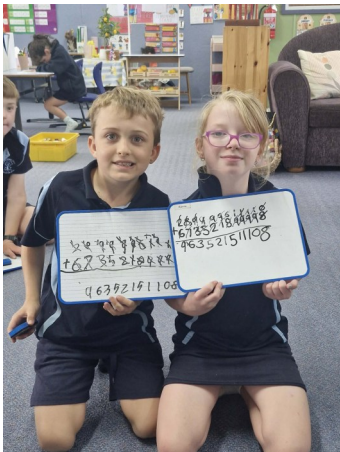
Did someone say addition with trading? Our Year 3 students have been diving into the world of multi-digit addition and are quickly becoming confident mathematicians. They've been learning how to use an algorithm to add some impressively large numbers, and their enthusiasm has been fantastic to see.

A big breakthrough this week has been realising that once you line up the place-value columns correctly and follow the steps of the algorithm, the world is *literally* your oyster. With the right order and verbal "script" to guide them, students are discovering that big numbers aren't nearly as intimidating as they first seemed.

It has also been especially pleasing to see many students choosing to move from concrete materials—like blocks and place-value charts—to more abstract thinking as their confidence grows. This shift shows real mathematical maturity and a willingness to challenge themselves.

Check out the maths in action!

Miss Murphy



## Student Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards this week:

Literacy Award: Tabby, for showing respect and determination in reading an historical and challenging poem at our school's Anzac Service.

Numeracy Award: Rayne, for demonstrating positivity when working independently and demonstrating her knowledge of coordinates in maths.

Specialist Award: Logan, for showing outstanding respect to include a friend during Wellbeing and welcoming them into his group.



## School Mowing

Is your family able to help in the mowing of the school grounds sometime this year? Every little bit helps, and everyone values the contributions of family volunteers in this task to keep our grounds beautiful.

Please see Miss Barnes if you can help.



THANK YOU!

## Happy birthday in May

4th—Rayne's birthday

15th—Jake's birthday



Our Service Road to school has a 10km/h speed limit. For everyone's safety—students, families and staff, please abide by this speed limit when arriving and departing from school at all times. Thank you.



BungaBuddies  
Bungaree Primary School OSHC

Bungaree PS  
is online



Together we can grow

# Wellbeing Wisdom

## Five ways to support your children’s mental health

Mental health is something that you can start supporting children with from a young age. It can be overwhelming and difficult to know where to start, but there is a simple acronym that captures 5 key elements to promote positive mental health for children. This is PERCS, which stands for:

### Parent-Child Relationship:

This area is focusing on building a strong positive connection with your child through warmth, connection and consistency with meeting their needs.

### Emotions and Behaviours:

This area focuses on the importance of tuning into how your child is feeling and supporting them to express their emotions in health ways.

### Routines:

This focuses on creating a predictable environment and routine for the child, as family routines help a child feel secure, connected and reduces stress.

### Communication and meaning-making:

This focuses on the importance of having open age-appropriate communication with your children to support them to understand what is happening in their world.

### Support Networks:

Having a support network for both yourself and your children is important and can promote a sense of belonging and increase help-seeking behaviours.

Through following this simple acronym, you can reduce stress and increase connection and attachment with your child.

### Sinead, Student Wellbeing



# Drop Off & Pick Up Times

Families are reminded that our school policy states that formal school supervision begins each day at 8:45am and concludes at 3:45pm. Before and after these times, teachers plan and prepare learning programs and meet together to discuss school matters.

Please respect this as important time for teachers in their professional practice; and ensure that you drop off your child/children between 8:45-9:00am each morning and collect them before 3:45pm.

On Breakfast Club days (Wednesday–Friday) students can be dropped off to the Art Room/Kids Kitchen from 8:30am.

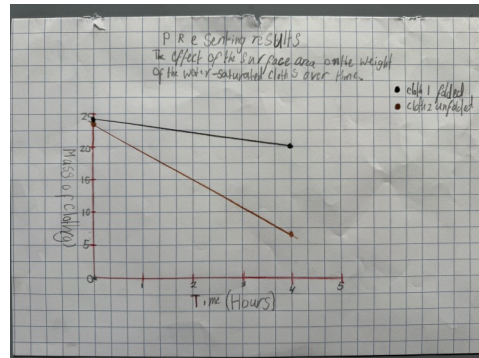
# Senior Science

Our Seniors have begun an exciting new science unit this term called “Desert Survivors.” They are exploring how plants and animals adapt to live in harsh desert environments.

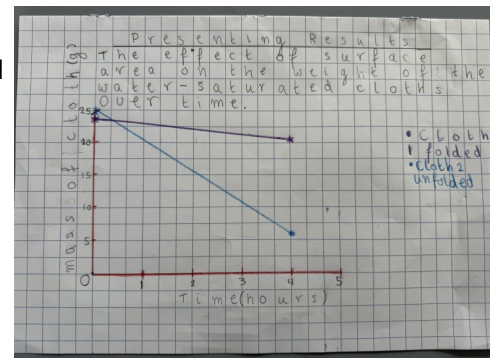
In the first two weeks, students investigated plant adaptations, focusing on how leaf size affects a plant’s ability to retain water. To test their ideas, they compared two plants from our school grounds—a eucalyptus and a callistemon—and then extended their experiment using absorbent cloths with different surface-area-to-volume ratios.



If you noticed cloths hanging in the school’s front entrance, don’t worry—it wasn’t our laundry on display! It was our science experiment in action, helping students observe how different “leaf sizes” (represented by the cloths) lose water at different rates.



Their science (and maths, through graphing their results) was outstanding. Students summarised their findings with this clear conclusion:



“In relation to plant adaptations, having leaves with a smaller surface area helps plants to retain water for longer.”

We’re excited to see where this unit leads as our budding scientists continue their investigations throughout the term.

Miss Barnes

# School life this fortnight

Anzac learning and commemorations; the all exciting cubbies are back for 2026; a library and lake visit in Ballarat. It's bonza to be at Bunga!



Together we can grow







**GOOD CLEAN FUN**

**PLAY.AFL/AUSKICK**

**AFL PLAY**





# BASKETBALL PROGRAMS

**TERM TWO FUN!**

**Aussie Hoops**  
Introductory program for children aged 4 to 11

**All Abilities Hoops**  
Development program for children living with disability

**Next Level**  
Aimed at 10 to 15 year old domestic players

## MAY 2026 Reading Calendar


| SUNDAY  | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY  |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|
|   |  |   |   |   | 1  | 2   |
|   |  |   |   |   | Choose a new book to start this month. Read the first few pages. | Read in a funny place—under a table, in a fort, or outside!   |
| 3   | 4  | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8  | 9   |
| Read <i>Possum Magic</i> or another Australian story aloud with family. | Look at the pictures in your book. What do you think will happen next? | Read a story to a toy or pet.   | Visit your library or classroom shelf and pick a book you've never read before. | Read with a family member or friend for 10 minutes. | Read a book with an animal as the main character.                | Listen to a story being read aloud online or in an audiobook. |
| <b>MOTHER'S DAY 10</b>  | 11   | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15   | 16  |
| Read a story about family or love.                                      | Read a picture book and find your favourite page.                      | Try a nonfiction book about something you love (like animals, trucks or space). | Read the same story twice—see what you notice the second time!                  | Read and try a new recipe with an adult.            | Tell someone what your story was about in one sentence.          | Read outside in the fresh air for 15 minutes.                 |
| 17  | 18   | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22   | 23  |
| Read a bedtime story together with your family.                         | Read two different books and decide which one you liked more.          | Read together with your whole classroom.  | Read with a buddy—take turns reading one page each.                             | Read a story that makes you laugh.                  | Read a book by an Australian author.                             | Read a book about the Earth, animals, or caring for nature.   |
| 24  | 25   | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29   | 30  |
| Read a short poem or nursery rhyme aloud.                               | Read a story about kindness or helping others.                         | Do a word search puzzle.  | Read a book by an indigenous creator.   | Reread one of your favourite books from this month. | Read a book and then draw your favourite part.                   | Read to someone younger than you.                             |
| 31  |  |   |   |   |  |   |
| Have a reading party—everyone reads their favourite story aloud!        |  |   |   |   |  |   |

**MR LUKE'S Magic Library** **DINOSAUR TRAIL**

WRITTEN BY MR LUKE  
ILLUSTRATED BY CHRIS KENNETT

**READ EVERY DAY! READ MORE IN MAY!**

**SCHOLASTIC**




30th ANNIVERSARY  
FAMILY READING  
2026  
scholastic.com.au/nrm

Together we can grow

**School families—save the date!**

**Tuesday, 2nd June at 6:30pm**

**Keep an eye out for a registration link for this special parent webinar on Compass soon.**

**Come along to a Parent & Carer Presentation!**



## Parenting with ACE Webinar

PRESENTED BY HUGH VAN CUYLENBURG

**WHO'S INVITED?**  
Parents & Carers

**DURATION**  
60 minutes

**WHERE?**  
Online Webinar

### ACE - Authenticity, Connection and Self-Esteem.

When your child feels connected, confident and supported to be themselves, they're more resilient and better able to navigate life's ups and downs at home, school and beyond.

This webinar will equip you with easy tools to foster your child's wellbeing:



Understand our ACE framework (Authenticity, Connection and Self-Esteem), and how it can support you and your child..



Tips and strategies to help your child build strong relationships, strengthen self-esteem and grow into their authentic self.



Explore topics including values, purpose, communication, positive self-talk and growth mindset.

**SCAN FOR MORE ABOUT**

**THE RESILIENCE PROJECT™**



Together we can grow