



Term 3 Week 9

Friday 20 September 2024

Namadgi School Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Namadgi Families,

Term 3, 2024 is drawing to a close but staff and students are as busy as ever! This week we had Learning Journey's in the Primary School with families invited to attend and view the learning progression of students in their classrooms from Kindy to Year 6. There were dioramas on display looking at the solar system and studies of the animal, the Peacock, in Kindy. There are work samples on display with a focus on Literacy and Numeracy showcasing the marvellous work being undertaken in classes. Congratulations to Aaron in KDS and Autumn in 4SG, our winners in the 'completed passport' draw.

Throughout this term, Namadgi students have represented Namadgi School in IMP Choir, IMP Band, ACT Volleyball Nationals, ACT and Tuggeranong Zone Athletics, Indigenous Cultural programs, wellbeing programs, excursions to the ANU and school camps.

As well as the award-winning Kitchen Garden program, who recently won the STEM prize at the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program Awards, our students and staff have outdone themselves in Term 3. Congratulations to everyone involved in putting together excursions, submissions for competitions, camps, incursion activities as well as coordinating supports for students and families in the broader community. Namadgi School is a positive and supportive hub for our community and our staff do tremendous work in order to reach goals and set benchmarks for others to follow.



On Wednesday next week, 5 staff and 36 students will embark on a two-and-a-half-week discovery of Japan. This immersive experience will allow students the opportunity to converse in Japanese, put their in-class learning to the test and explore the ancient history and culture of this country. It is an amazing logistical effort to get such a trip off the ground and I would like to thank Mr Raven and Mr Kajitani for making it all possible.

Please remember voluntary contributions and elective contributions can always be received through the front office. This support helps to cover much needed consumables and resources for teaching and learning in classrooms across the school. Recent reminders were sent home via email, and I encourage families to support the school, and the many programs we offer, by helping financially through these contributions.

During the school holiday period if you see something suspicious around the school grounds, please report the activity to ACT Policing on 131 444. The school will have some hirers on site during this period, but if you are unsure, please help us keep the school safe.

We look forward to **starting Term 4 on Tuesday 15th of October** (Monday 14th of October is a pupil free day across the ACT).

Kind Regards,
Gareth Richards
Principal

Strong Foundations for future success – Phase One Implementation Plan available

The ACT Government has shared the Strong Foundations Phase One Implementation plan that outlines how we will implement the Strong Foundations reform program in all ACT public schools.

Strong Foundations is focused on achieving a system-wide approach to curriculum delivery, teaching, assessment, tiered supports, and professional learning, with a focus on improving literacy and numeracy outcomes.

From 2025 there will be:

- new curriculum resources for schools with preschool to year 2 students
- universal Year 1 Phonics Checks for all schools with Year 1 students – with some schools already underway
- system-wide literacy and numeracy assessments.

We are also working with our school leaders to develop a system-wide approach to improve learning outcomes across all schools and ensure all staff are provided with the resources and professional learning they need.

You can read the Phase One Implementation Plan on the [Education Website](#). The implementation of Strong Foundations is based on advice from the Literacy and Numeracy Education Expert Panel's Final Report. The Final report is also available from the Education Website.

<u>Calendar of Events</u>	
Date	Event
Monday 23 September	Year 1 and 2 Questacon
Friday 27 September	Last day Term 3
Monday 14 October	Pupil Free Day
Tuesday 15 October	First day Term 4
Wednesday 16 October	Kindy 2025 Information session 3.15 to 4.15pm
Saturday 19 October	P&C Election Day barbeque and cake stall
Monday 4 to Friday 8 November	Book Fair



Beyond the Noise

PERKS Parenting Workshop

Monday, 28 October, 4 – 5.30 pm at Namadgi School

Practical Approaches to Boys Behaviour and Growth.

This workshop will introduce the issues faced with boys as they progress through primary school into lower high school. The workshop will allow families to discuss and explore the nature of boys and provide practical strategies to use at home when conflict seems inevitable.

Please see attached flyer for registration details.

Kindy 2025 Information Session

Please join us to learn more about Kindergarten at Namadgi School

This will provide an opportunity to:

Meet the current Kindy teaching team

Pick up your kindy information pack

Familiarise yourself with the kindy classrooms

Hear about the teaching and learning programs

A tour of Namadgi School including afternoon tea at the infamous Kitchen Garden and Library visit

Meet the current Namadgi staff and Kindy 2025 families

Wednesday 16 October 2024 3.15 to 4.15pm

Free travel during MyWay+ transition, starts Friday 20 September

The next major phase for MyWay+ will start from Friday 20 September ahead of the next generation ticketing system going live this November.

To get ready for the new ticketing system, the old equipment will need to be removed and new MyWay+ validators installed in both buses and along the light rail alignment.

As a result, from Friday 20 September 2024

- Travel will be free - The MyWay ticketing system will no longer be available. Travel on buses and light rail will be free. You will not be required to tap on and off during this fare free travel period.
- NXTBUS will no longer be available. This includes on board buses, at bus stops and stations as well as the SMS service. Timetable Information will be available online and at major stops and interchanges.
- Bus services will continue to operate to the scheduled timetable.
- Light rail will continue to operate to the scheduled frequency. Next stop information will still be available for light rail (onboard and at stops).

For more information, visit the transport.act.gov.au



Preschool

Yuma!

What an awesome term 3 of Wonder and Learning at preschool!!

A big highlight was the fabulous day of teddy focused fun for our Teddy Bears Picnic! We made clothes for our teddies and drew their portraits. We created name tag necklaces and teddy bear ears! We had a great time showing them around our classrooms and the Namadgi School Nature Play Area. We topped off this fun day by having a lovely picnic with our families and then showed them some of the amazing wonder and learning that is happening around our preschool.



Thank you to all the families who were able to join us 😊.



The Emus and Wallabies also had a visit from ACT Domestic Animal Services who ran an informative early childhood education program about safety around dogs. This included how to read their behaviour and how we can live and interact safely with dogs. Everyone had the opportunity to safely meet and pat Bingo who was definitely the star of the show!



We have been enjoying the early spring sunshine and spending more time learning outside. We are loving our bush kitchen area and are always excited when its warm enough to add water to our sandpit! We have also been experimenting with how we can move our bodies on the large



gymnastic mats and foam shapes. What fun ways to develop our bodies, social skills, problem solving and patience.

A few reminders:

We are HATS ON again Please send a hat that can be left at school. Make sure it has your child's name on it.

Wednesdays are library days, please remember your library bag and any books to return so your child can borrow another one.

Please LABEL all your child's clothes as we are still collecting unnamed hats and jumpers each day.

Make sure you **check Seesaw** to see our fortnightly learning plans, shared learning and any important reminders. Please feel free to leave comments, questions and suggestions here too.

From the Preschool team

Cindy Treverrow, Rebecca Buchanan, Mel Goodridge,

Lesley Charlton, Puneet Sandhu and Jodie Tolson

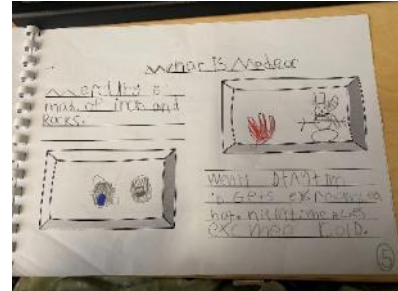
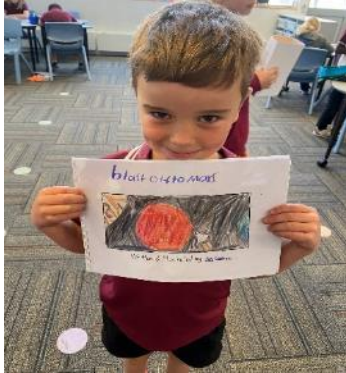
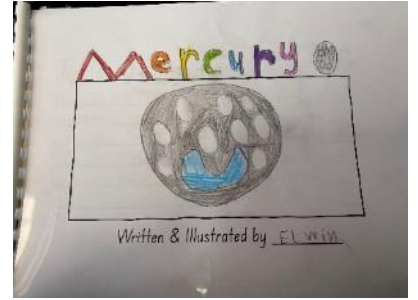
Executive Teacher: Jessica Potts



Year 1 and 2

Writing

Year 1 and 2 have been busily working on informative writing this term. We have dissected the different features of information texts and identified what good writers need to include when producing non-fiction text types. Each class focused on 2 planets within our Solar System and have used our researching skills to create our very own informative books!



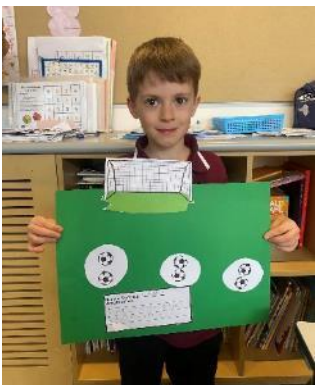
Dioramas

This term we have been diligently working to create planet dioramas to present with our informative books. We had to use our critical and creative thinking skills to combine factual information and design when planning and producing dioramas. After we created our dioramas, we explored an element of Media Arts by creating videos using astronauts, our dioramas, and voice overs of information.



Maths

Over the last few weeks, we have had a targeted focus on division. We have explored a variety of hands-on activities that support us to strengthen our knowledge of equal grouping and equal sharing.



Year 1/2 Teaching Team:
**Jessica Laing, Trista Ellison,
Jordan Glavinic and Lucy Adams**
Year 1/2 Executive Teacher: **Kristy Grady**



Primary Small Group

Welcome to Week 9. It is amazing to think that we are nearly at the end of Term 3. The students in the Small Group Program have been busy with their learning while also having fun with their friends. A reminder that all students need a sun smart hat for play time and to bring a labelled drink bottle every day.

This term in K-2BR we have been exploring our special places. We watched a short video about special places and discussed what makes a place special. As a class we came up with a checklist that special places are safe, have happy memories and meet our needs. Overall, we liked places outside in nature where it is quiet and we can feel the sun on our skin. We painted our favourite places in the wider world and wrote about our special places at school. Through discussions we learnt that people have different special places. We also brainstormed how we might care for special places by keeping them clean, not breaking items located within them and visiting often to make new memories.



Next term we will be extending our learning about special places across Australia, both natural and man made.



Meanwhile in 2-6MS, the students have been learning about their place on Earth and beyond. Students have been sharing places they know locally and widespread. In maths the students are learning about perimeter and area and how to measure these spaces. In English we have begun our study on information texts - what they are, the structure to write one and how to read them. Last week the students enjoyed attending the Dog Safety Program, while this week they have been busy preparing to host the assembly as well as having our Learning Journeys.



From the K-6 LSU team
Belinda Rathborne, Narelle O'Callaghan, Merrilyn Sparks and Mel Goodridge
Executive Teacher: Jessica Potts



Year 3

It has been a very busy few weeks for Year 3! A big congratulations to the students who participated in the 'Step into the Limelight' performance. Your hard work and dedication were admirable, and you were absolutely amazing!



In Literacy, students have begun constructing their own narrative after some very big weeks of learning about what a good narrative looks like.

In Maths, we have been focussing on fractions and have been using some hands-on learning to enhance our knowledge. These activities help to grasp key concepts like equal parts, numerators, and denominators in an interactive way.

In Media Arts, we have discovered that we have some budding photographers! Students have been learning about negative space, subjects, rules of thirds and have been using the Chromebooks to take their own photos – our Kitchen Garden space has been very popular now that Spring has sprung!



Tahnia Garbutt, our wonderful Indigenous Education Officer, joined us to speak about Indigenous Art, in particular boomerangs and why the boomerang is so significant to the Indigenous Community. Students completed their own dot painted boomerang and used Indigenous symbols to draw the things that are important to them. Thank you, Tahnia!

In other news, we have enjoyed collaborating as a whole cohort to create our own puppet shows!

We also had two lovely ladies from Domestic Animal Services (DAS) come and present an information session on Dog Safety last week. Students got to give 'Bingo' a pat or a belly rub at the end of the session!



A few reminders for our final week of term and heading into Term 4:

- The weather is warming up and hats are now to be worn outdoors. Any students without a hat will be asked to play in the shaded areas of our playground.
- Please label all clothing, including hats – we have lots of jumpers in our lost property with no names!
- If your child has been vomiting or has diarrhea, they are unable to return to

school until at least 24 hours after their last vomit or episode of diarrhea. Thank you for helping keep Namadgi School healthy!



Thank you for a wonderful term and we look forward to seeing students back at school on Tuesday the 15th of October.

Year 3

Classroom Teachers: Caitlin Walker, Brielle Riley & Anthea Theodoridis (Wed)

Executive Teacher: Anthea Theodoridis



Year 4

Year 4 have been studying the First Fleet and were surprised to find out that children as young as 7 were sent to Australia for crimes like stealing bread! Living conditions on the ships were not comfortable, and we wrote a diary perspective from the convict's point of view.

On Tuesday, Year 4 went to Birrigai (which means laughter in Ngunnawal language) and learned about Aboriginal ways of cooking, crafting, and culture. The students learned firsthand experience in making damper (bush bread) including creating their own fire and cooking it on hot coals. We were gifted some special Birrigai cookies and spent some time grinding wheat to make flour and weaving raffia string ropes to create bracelets. We finished our journey with a wonderful bush walk and learned about the benefits of tea tree leaves. We also saw a memorial of the 2003 bushfires. What a fantastic adventure! Thank you to Lisa and Karen of Birrigai for teaching us this wonderful outdoor education.

Dear diary,

The year is 1788. I am in England and because I robbed the bank they are taking me to Australia. I feel like I shouldn't have done that. I am scared of what Australia will be like because what if it is too cold and I won't be able to go anywhere. England is so much better than Australia.



Year 4

Cintha Thompson, Sammy Grall, Shannon Kumar
Executive Teacher: Anthea Theodoridis



National Kitchen Garden Award winners – Showcasing STEM

We are thrilled to announce our entry into the National Kitchen Garden Awards won the *Showcasing STEM* category. The kitchen garden team and students from years 3 and 4 joined politicians at the Parliament House during the announcement of the winning kitchen garden schools. Our students did a wonderful job demonstrating their cooking skills as they prepared a broad bean dip for the guests to sample, as well as showed their soil testing skills and discussed the importance of soil health for plant growth.



Science at the ANU

Recently a group of Year 6 students had an exciting opportunity to explore the world of science at the Australian National University (ANU). They were joined by students from other Southside primary schools and were guided by a team of Year 9/10 Namadgi student mentors who provided invaluable support and encouragement. On Day 1, the

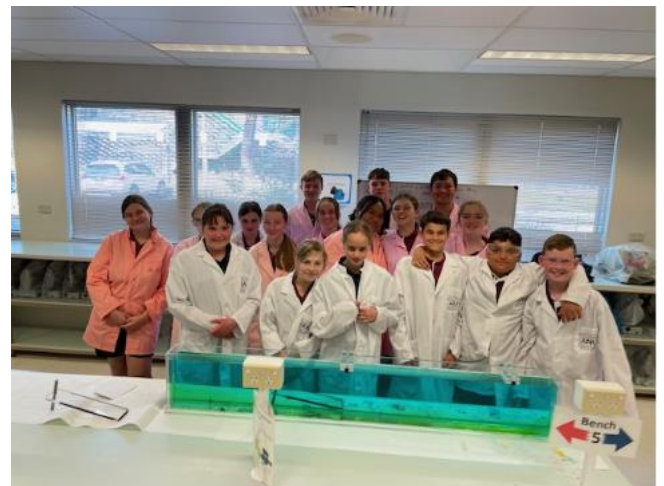


students immersed themselves in university life, attending a mini biology lecture, exploring the campus, and participating in engaging demonstrations. They experimented with water density in the Climate & Fluid Physics Laboratory and observed earthquake simulations in the Seismology unit. Day 2 offered a more hands-on science experience. One group delved into local water samples, testing water quality, and searching for aquatic life, while another group experimented with various food items to create natural dyes, which they used to colour different fabrics. It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to experience science in action and participate in hands-on investigations that connects directly to the kitchen garden educational program.

SunSmart and hydration Reminder:

Kindly ensure your child brings a hat and water bottle daily. These items are essential for their protection and safety during the school day and during their Kitchen Garden sessions.

Julie White, Lydia Desmet, Kathryn Glanville
Executive Teacher: Anthea Theodoridis



Senior School

HPE, Arts and Tech

Year 7/8 HPE:

Year 7/8 have finished off their Olympic unit which included learning about Olympic and paralympic sports. They have moved onto basketball, Oztag and floor hockey which offers a fast-paced environment where students learn to transfer their skills into a game. This helps students work on their movement skills while encouraging inclusion, cooperation and leadership.

Year 9/10 HPE:

Our Year 9 and 10 students have just completed a crucial health unit focusing on *drug education*. In this unit, students explored the effects of various substances on health and wellbeing and discussed strategies to manage risky situations both online and offline. With this knowledge in hand, they are now transitioning to new sports, including *Flag football* and *Volleyball*. Both sports are fantastic for building agility, teamwork, and strategy, offering students plenty of opportunities to apply and evaluate movement tactics while improving their fitness. As we progress through the term, we encourage all students to stay active, support each other, and continue applying the healthy habits they've learned in class! Keep an eye out for updates on our upcoming sports events and interschool competitions.

Year 9/10 Elective – Rec & Leisure:

Our Rec and Leisure students are putting their leadership skills to the test with their *sports coaching assignment*, where they take on the role of coach, guiding their peers through activities and drills in various sports. Each student is responsible for teaching a key skill, breaking it down into manageable steps, and providing feedback to improve performance. This hands-on task not only develops their coaching abilities but also enhances communication, teamwork, and problem-solving skills, all while fostering a supportive and inclusive environment.

Year 8 Design Technology:

Our Year 8 Production class has been hard at work designing their very own *3D-printed keychains*, combining creativity with practical skills. Students are learning how to use 3D modelling software to create personalised designs, which will be brought to life using our 3D printer. The final keychains will be printed over the holidays, and students will be able to see their designs transformed into real products when they return. This project has been a fantastic way for students to explore the possibilities of design and technology!

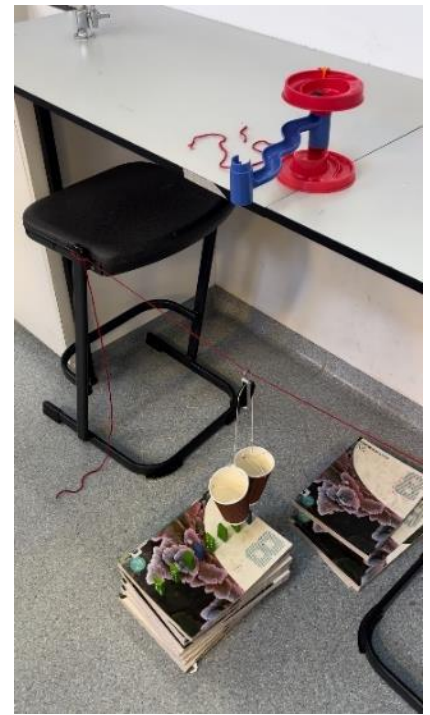
Steph Johnston, Hayley Borg, Josh Hart, James Hamilton, Micky Thomas, Mindi White, Jade Payne, Charlie Doherty & Steve Rudic

Executive Teacher: Maddie Clayden



Maths and Science

This term in science, students have been diving into the world of physics, with a particular focus on energy and forces. Year 8 students put their creativity to the test by designing and building Rube Goldberg machines—contraptions that use a series of chain reactions to complete a simple task in a complicated way. This project challenged students to apply their knowledge of forces and energy transfer. After building their machines, students tested them and wrote reports analysing their effectiveness.



Year 9 science students explored heat as a form of energy and how it transfers between different materials. In a hands-on practical class, students heated various materials using Bunsen burners and observed how well each conducted heat, gaining valuable insights into thermal conductivity.

In maths, Year 7 students have been mastering measurement and recently uncovered the value of Pi (π), an important mathematical constant. Year 8 students demonstrated their understanding of ratios, rates, and percentages through a bake sale task, which provided a real-world context for applying these concepts. Meanwhile, Year 9 and 10 students have been exploring different types of graphs, including linear (straight-line) graphs and parabolas (curved graphs), enhancing their understanding of these critical mathematical tools.

During week 8 of this term we also saw an exciting science excursion, where 12 Year 9 and 10 students had the opportunity to support Year 6 students during a two-day science event at ANU. Our senior students acted as mentors, assisting with experiments and sharing their enthusiasm for science with the younger students. It was a fantastic experience for all involved, and we are proud of the leadership and encouragement shown by our Year 9 and 10 students.



It's been an exciting and productive term, and the maths and science team would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday break. We can't wait for more learning adventures next term!

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

