



What's Happening:

Best Start

Best Start Kindergarten Assessment identifies student's literacy and numeracy skills on entry to kindergarten. All Kindergarten students complete the literacy and numeracy assessment in the first 5 weeks of school. It has been conducted in all NSW public schools since 2010. The assessment is mapped to the National Literacy and Numeracy Learning Progressions.



The assessment is conducted in line with existing school practices and builds upon teaching and learning programs that support students in the transition to school. Miss Whitechurch completed these assessments with our students in week 4 of this term and provided our kindergarten families with information regarding the student's achievements and goals moving forward. If you have any questions about Best Start, please come in for a discussion with your child's teacher or Miss Jackson.

Kindergarten Orientation 2025/26

I know it seems a long way in the future now, but we wanted to make sure our families had the information needed regarding Kindergarten Orientation. This way if families need to make changes to day care or preschool commitments they can be made confidently and early.

Orientation is a program conducted in all Public Schools to familiarise students beginning Kindergarten the following year with the new environment, their teachers and the school students who will be their future friends. At Murringo Public School this year we are planning five orientation days, three half days in term 3 and two full days in term 4. The dates are as follows:

Term 3: Orientation Half Days

Wednesday Week 7 – September 3rd, 9:00am – 12:30pm

Wednesday Week 8 – September 10th, 9:00am – 12:30pm

Wednesday Week 9 – September 17th, 9:00am – 12:30pm

Term 4: Orientation Full Days

Wednesday Week 6 – November 19th, 9:00am – 3:00pm

Wednesday Week 7 – November 26th, 9:00am – 3:00pm



We are already looking forward to meeting all our new friends and welcoming them to the Murringo Public School.

Parent Volunteers

We are excited to announce the continuation of our Kitchen Garden Program, which takes place every Thursday during the term from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. This program provides our students with a wonderful opportunity to learn about gardening, sustainability, and healthy eating.

We are seeking enthusiastic parent and carer volunteers to assist us in this valuable initiative. Your support will greatly enhance the experience for our students and help foster a love for gardening, the environment, cooking and healthy eating. During this program our students undertake gardening projects which this term includes revitalising the chicken coop and bird area, which we are working to extend this year to include both chickens and ducks, building up the garden beds ready for Autumn planting and creating our fairy garden/ bird and insect sanctuary. In the kitchen the students will be exploring and cooking a variety of healthy and delicious meals.



If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please feel free to contact the school office or reply to the note attached to our newsletter. Parents, carers and community members who would like to volunteer for this program or be part of future events as a volunteer will need to complete a form that will be emailed to you. Thank you all in advance, we are looking forward to working together to make our Kitchen Garden Program a success!

Bus

Last week our students reviewed the school's expectations when travelling on the school bus. It was encouraging to see that all our students could articulate what these expectations were and why they were important. The review was conducted in response to two incidents that occurred on the bus earlier in the term so in addition to discussing our expectations with the students we thought it was important to share with them with our families and community so these expectations can also be discussed and explored at home. Below is an excerpt from the policy from Transport NSW, *Guidelines for Managing School Student Behaviour on Buses. The Code of Conduct for students, bus drivers, operators, school Principals and parents/guardians.*



If you would like a copy of this document in full or have any questions about the school's expectations of students riding the bus, please contact your child's teacher or Miss Jackson.

Student Code of Conduct

The following Code of Conduct sets out acceptable standards of behaviour for students travelling on school buses and regular route buses. Students are expected to follow these rules for the safety and comfort of all passengers, including themselves. If the rules are not followed, it may lead to the withdrawal of travel passes for subsidised travel, banning students from travelling on buses, and even police prosecution and court action.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS ON BUSES

It is every student's responsibility to behave in a manner that ensures the safety and comfort of passengers and drivers.

This includes: Behaviour on buses:

- Use appropriate language not offensive or racist language
- Fighting, spitting, feet on seats, throwing things in or from the bus is not permitted
- No eating or drinking (other than water) – unless for medical reasons or the bus operator gives written permission
- Offer seats to adults including people with a disability, elderly or expectant mothers
- Do not touch, push or shove other people
- Do not bully or harass other passengers or the driver. This includes photographing, making lewd or suggestive comments, acting in a manner or participating in activities that may be deemed inappropriate or of a sexual nature.
- Avoid attracting the attention of the driver except in the case of emergency
- Do not play music at such volume that it may distract the bus driver or other passengers.

Safety on and near buses:

- Obey reasonable directions from the driver (e.g. where to sit or to remain in the bus)
- Remain in your seat – do not move around the bus unnecessarily
- If standing, remain behind the front passenger seat and keep a secure hand hold at all times
- Keep bags and other items clear of the aisle
- Do not allow any part of your body to protrude out of the bus at any time
- Wait for the bus in a quiet and orderly manner – including at bus interchanges
- Stand away from the roadside until the bus comes to a complete stop
- Allow other passengers to leave the bus before stepping onto the bus in a single line
- Wait until the bus stops before moving to get off the bus at your designated stop
- Wait until the bus leaves the stop and you have clear vision before crossing the road
 - Cross the road where and when it's safe to do so, use crossings/traffic lights where available.

Legal considerations on buses:

- Wear the seat belt properly adjusted and fastened
- Obey the law that bans smoking on buses
- Ensure that buses are not vandalised – report any damage, e.g. graffiti and window etching, to the driver
- Do not interfere with bus property, equipment and signage
- Do not leave rubbish on the bus, or at bus stops or interchanges.



MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

School Students' behaviour on buses



NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students can undertake. As students' progress through their school years, it is important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy. NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national proficiency standards. NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with more information about students' educational progress. NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working, and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.



Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN. You can support your child by letting them know that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best. Some explanation of NAPLAN is useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests; however, it is not necessary for parents/carers to do this. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

The NAPLAN test window is 9 days. This is to accommodate schools that may not have the capacity to complete the tests in a shorter time frame. The NAPLAN test window starts on Wednesday 12 March 2025 and finishes on Monday 24 March 2025. Schools will schedule the tests as soon as possible within the testing window, prioritising the first week.

Harmony Week

Australia is one of the world's most successful multicultural countries and our cultural diversity is at the heart of who we are. Over half of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was born overseas. That's why it's so important that we celebrate our country's diversity through Harmony Week. Harmony Week is also about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, from the Traditional Owners of the land to our most recent arrivals. And celebrating that no matter where you come from, we're united by the Australian values of freedom, respect, fairness, democracy and equal opportunity. During Harmony Week our students will have the opportunity to wear something orange on Friday March 21, to show their support for cultural diversity and an inclusive Australia. They will also take part in a variety of Harmony week activities and investigate how our community celebrates diversity. To find out more and to get involved, head to www.harmony.gov.au





100 days of reading challenge

Our 100 days of reading challenge has kicked off with a fantastic start, congratulations to all our students who have already racked up 10 or more nights of reading that is a phenomenal start! Also very exciting to see several students take up the option of joining 'Reading Club' on Tuesdays and 'Thursdays', that is definitely the way to cement your place in our celebration of reading excursion.

Part of the reason we are so focused on developing our student's ability to read consistently is to build their reading stamina in our increasingly digital world. Our students need to know that they can read a text, whether that is a book, novel, informative text from start to finish successfully. I have included my top ten reasons to read for between 10 to 30 minutes at least 3 days a week.

Key benefits of sustained reading:

- **Vocabulary expansion:** Exposure to diverse texts introduces new words and enriches language understanding.
- **Critical thinking development:** Analysing different perspectives and ideas within a text encourages critical thought processes.
- **Improved writing skills:** Observing sentence structure and stylistic choices in reading improves writing quality.
- **Stress reduction:** Immersing oneself in a book can provide a calming and relaxing experience.
- **Creativity boost:** Imagining scenarios and characters within a narrative stimulates creativity.
- **Enhanced concentration:** Focusing on reading for extended periods improves attention span and focus.
- **Better comprehension:** Sustained reading allows for deeper understanding of complex concepts.
- **Knowledge acquisition:** Exposure to various topics through reading broadens general knowledge.
- **Mental well-being:** Reading can positively impact mental health by providing escape and emotional engagement.
- **We Live Longer!** Research has demonstrated that people who read regularly for leisure live between 4 to 6 years longer than people who do not.

So far, our students are doing a good job of maintaining their reading log to track their progress and results are being recorded in every class. If you need help with the reading logs or have any questions, please touch base with your class teacher.

For students who may not be able to read at home, we offer a Reading Club every Tuesday and Thursday where students can read with a teacher, and these sessions will count toward the 100 days of reading. At the end of the year, all students who complete the challenge will be rewarded with a fun end-of-year excursion! Keep going with the great reading! You have all made an excellent start.

P&C AGM

This year's P&C AGM will take place on Monday March 17, we would love to see as many of our families and community members as possible. This fantastic group plans a variety of activities throughout the year to support not only our students and the school but also the broader community. This is also the space where your teachers get to share about important events and activities coming up for our students and the local small schools' network. It is a lot of fun and we look forward to seeing you there.

Expressions of Interest for Southern Stars

We are excited to offer the opportunity for our students from Year 2 to Year 6 to participate in the upcoming 2025 'Southern Stars Spectacular'. Southern Stars is an annual arena spectacular held in the WIN Entertainment Centre, Wollongong. Southern Stars shows for 2025 will be held on the Friday, 29th August and Saturday, 30th August 2025. This will be the only large-scale performance opportunity this year as the Cherry Jam Concert is not going ahead in 2025. So, grab this chance to be a part of something truly amazing!



We are asking for students to nominate if they would like to take part in either the Mass Choir or the Mass Dance. It is important to know however that there will be rehearsals onsite in Wollongong prior to show week and students will need to be prepared to practice all the elements of their performance at home as well as at school.

It is not compulsory, but it is an amazing opportunity for our students to participate in a state-wide event, meet students from other schools and create something spectacular. We hope that as many of our students as possible will elect to take part. If you have any questions, please contact Miss Jackson, Miss Whitechurch, Mrs Richens or Gina in the office. If you have lost your note regarding Southern Stars, please come and get another from the office.



Spotlight on Dolphins!

Diving into a Fantastic Start: Team Dolphins Shine in Term 1 - Dolphins have dived straight into learning this term with enthusiasm, excitement, and stamina, making a splash in every learning task they undertake! Their energy and focus have been a joy to see as they tackle new challenges and build on their existing knowledge.

Mathematics: Exploring Place Value - In Mathematics, students have been consolidating their understanding of whole numbers while diving deeper into place value. They've been learning fantastic new strategies, including expanded notation, to build a strong foundation for future mathematical concepts. This deepened understanding is setting the stage for continued success.

English: Narrative Writing and Vocabulary

Growth - This term, Team Dolphins have embarked on an exciting journey into narrative writing. With an emphasis on crafting engaging stories, students have impressed with their creative use of Tier 2 vocabulary. Their enthusiasm for writing has grown as they eagerly put pen to paper each day, producing imaginative and well-thought-out narratives.



Reading has been another major focus across the school. Team Dolphins are a dedicated pod, striving to read every day and meet their ambitious goal of 100 days of reading. This commitment is helping to strengthen their comprehension skills and fostering a lifelong love of reading.



PDH: Safety and Emergency Preparedness -In Personal Development and Health (PDH), students have been revising vital safety practices, focusing on how to manage emergencies and unsafe situations. These lessons are equipping our Dolphins with the confidence and knowledge to navigate potentially challenging circumstances.



A Fabulous Start - It's been a joy to witness the dedication, teamwork, and resilience that Team Dolphins bring to their learning. I am exceptionally proud of how well they have slotted back into school routines, embracing every challenge with a positive attitude. If this start is any indication, 2025 is going to be a fabulous year for our Dolphins!

Keep swimming strong, Team Dolphins!



Murringo VILLAGE PLAN

Hilltops Council has begun a Village Planning Program. The aim is to create individual village plans, highlighting the concerns and ambitions of the region's villages.

Our villages shape our unique identity and sense of place. The plans provide a roadmap for communities to use in planning their future growth and development.

Council, and the Murringo Community Association, would like your feedback on the below survey questions.

1. What do you love about your village and the wider Murringo community – what features and characteristics are important to protect and maintain?
2. What improvements would you like to see to make Murringo an even better place to live, or to help overcome any challenges facing the community?

Copies of the survey are available at the Community Hall, Murringo Public School, Murringo Barracks, and Taubman and Webb, and will also be available during the Murringo Art Show and village markets.



Survey closes Sunday 4 May

We have been asked to have a think and complete a survey for the future planning of the wonderful place that we either live, work, attend school, visit that we call Murringo!

You can be as creative as you like! It might be a skate park or for the path to be sealed. It might be a walking trail with Murringo historical information to be read along the track. It might be to have the Murringo Transfer Waste Station to be manned, toilets at the Murringo Gap with free BBQ's or it might be something for our next generations to come like a bike path from the cemetery to the Murringo Gap.

So, please take the time to fill out the survey attached to this newsletter and there will be a box at school for it to be put in and collected by the staff of Hilltops Council.





CRICKET NSW



**REGISTER
NOW!**

FREE SCHOOL HOLIDAY CRICKET CLINIC

- *Perfect for boys and girls aged 7 -14 years*
- *Develop skills with tailored drills, activities and modified matches*
- *Registration is essential - details below*

- **Boorowa sports ground**
- **10am- 2pm**
- **16/04/2025**
- **Open to ages between 7-14 years old**
- **Sign up for this FREE program through the QR code**





YOUNG HIGH SCHOOL

OPEN AFTERNOON 12TH MARCH 2025


3.30PM-5.30PM

Whether you're a future student, parent, or community member, we'd love to see you there!



 02 6382 1166

 <https://young-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

 Campbell Street, Young NSW 2594

Take a student-led tour, meet our dedicated staff, and explore the fantastic opportunities our school has to offer.

Enjoy a sausage sizzle, engage in fun activities, and experience the vibrant YHS community.





Cooper Holmes

This is my 2nd Mullet for Mental Health

Let's give our Year 5 boy, Cooper a hand by making a small donation to such a great cause. Click on the link.....

[Mullets for Mental Health - Cooper Holmes](#)

Support my mullet to help prevent suicide

I'm growing my mullet this April for Black Dog Institute's Mullets for Mental Health.

9 people in Australia die by suicide every day. Over 75% of mental health problems occur before the age of 25.

My mullet and funds raised will help us drive real change and fund ground-breaking mental health research. This will put digital services and education into the hands of people who need it the most.

It would mean a lot to me if you donated to support my mullet.

Together, we can create better mental health for all Australians.



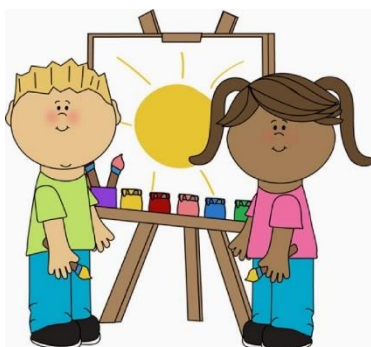
Come along to the Murringo Art Show this Saturday anytime between 11am and 5pm.

We will be showcasing our students artwork along with many local artists.

There will be refreshments included in the entry fee of only \$ 5.00.

Your child will be excited to see their artwork on display and eager to show family and friends.

Hope we get to see you there and you just might win the lucky door prize or raffle.



As part of the 'Hilltops Art Trail', the Murringo Community Association invites you to immerse yourself in

'a second chance at art'
at the Murringo Art Show

8th March 2025 from 11am till 5pm

at the Murringo Community Hall

\$5 Entry with wine & cheese included

This years event including a special featured category,

'Recycling the Landscape'.

Week	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
6	3 March	4 March	5 March	6 March	7 March	8 March Murringo Art Show	9 March
7	10 March Riverina Swimming Carnival at Leeton	11 March	12 March	13 March	14 March Gus' & Mrs Dabin's B'days	15 March	16 March
8	17 March P&C Meeting at 3.15pm	18 March	19 March	20 March	21 March Harmony Day	22 March	23 March
9	24 March Gina away	25 March	26 March	27 March	28 March YSS PSSA Athletics Carnival	29 March	30 March
10	31 March	1 April	2 April James' B'day	3 April	4 April Back Up Date YSS PSSA	5 April	6 April Izequil's B'day
11	7 April	8 April	9 April	10 April	11 April Krystal's B'day	12 April	13 April Maisie & Heidi's B'day

