



TOGETHER WE GROW

2 Mackay Street, Nhill 3418 P: 5391 2144 F: 5391 2022 E: admin@nls.vic.edu.au

Term 1 Week 1 Issue 1 30th January 2020



Upcoming Dates

FEB	Wed 5th	No Foundation classes
	Friday 7th	Welcome BBQ—6.30 pm; meat supplied
	Tues 11th	P & F AGM—7 pm
	Wed 12th	No Foundation classes
	Mon 17th – Fri 21st	Swimming classes @ 11am-1.30pm
	Wed 19th	No Foundation classes
	Mon 24th– Thurs 27th	Swimming classes @ 11am-1.30pm
	Tues 25th	Shrove Tuesday
	Wed 26th	Ash Wednesday No Foundation classes
	Fri 28th	Swimming Carnival
MAR	Wed 4th	Wimmera Machinery Field Days excursion No Foundation classes

Birthdays

We hope the following students had a great birthday over the school holidays:

Caleb Bedford: Monday 6th January

Justin Tu: Monday 13th January

Lawson Lynch: Sunday 19th

January



Also to Mrs Alexander: Friday 10th January

Foundation

This week we welcomed our new Foundation class. Some of them are pictured below.

We also welcome the other new students and families who have recently moved to Nhill.



From the Principal

Welcome

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2020. Newsletters are distributed weekly and also appear on our school website. I hope you find the newsletters useful and informative as you keep up to date with what's happening at Nhill Lutheran School.

In this newsletter you will find a great article titled Working Closely With Your Child's Teacher This Year. I encourage you to read this article as it highlights numerous benefits of a positive parent-teacher partnership, in particular for the progress and wellbeing of the students. At Nhill Lutheran School we value a close home-school partnership, and parents are always welcome to arrange a time to meet with teachers.

This year we welcome a number of people into our school community – 10 new Foundation students, 5 students in other year levels and 1 staff member, Ms Linda Rutherford as Integration Aide. Welcome back, also, to all returning students and their families. I hope you all feel welcomed and it will be great to see you at the Welcome BBQ on Friday February 7 at 6.30pm.

Communication

Apart from weekly newsletters other forms of communication are used by the school. All class teachers and students use the Seesaw app to share student learning and to share other important information. Teachers will be sending home instructions on how to connect to Seesaw if they have not yet done so. Additionally, the Flexibuzz app is used, as well as emails and notes that are distributed, and of course phone calls and face to face conversations also occur.

Surface to Deep

Last year I shared with the students about surface and deep learning. I asked them to imagine they were at the beach in the ocean. With their heads above water they can see a lot of the surface of the ocean, maybe a boat or a wave. But we know there's a lot more to the ocean than just what is on the surface. If we go deeper into the water we see a whole different world – fish, seaweed, rocks, shells, shipwrecks. The concepts of surface and deep can relate to learning. By going deeper with learning concepts more information is learnt and retained, thinking becomes broader, and learners develop conceptual understanding. Surface learning is important but if we only stay at that level much richer learning experiences are missed. Let's look at an example of moving from surface to deep learning by using Tom Roberts' painting Bailed Up (where a stagecoach is being held up by bushrangers). Look at how the flow of learning moves from surface to deep: an idea → many ideas → relating ideas → extending ideas. Who painted Bailed Up? (an idea) → outline at least 2 techniques Roberts used in Bailed Up (many ideas) → Relate what is happening in Bailed Up to a current event (relating ideas) → What do you think Roberts was saying through his painting Bailed Up? (extending ideas). I look forward to seeing many rich learning experiences where students may grow in their deep thinking capabilities.

Cyber Safety Agreements

Cyber Safety Agreements were emailed to families with the Welcome letter. Please read these with your child, sign where asked, and return to the school. We aim to have safe behaviours when our students use technology.

Every blessing for your week and I look forward to serving you and this wonderful school community in 2020,

Damon Prenzler

Devotional Thought

God does not give up on you

The LORD says, 'Let my people return to me. Remove every obstacle from their path! Build the road and make it ready!

I am the high and holy God, who lives for ever. I live in a high and holy place, but I also live with people who are humble and repentant, so that I can restore their confidence and hope.' (verses 14,15)

Read [Isaiah 57:14-21](#)

God does not give up on you. Even if you turn away from him or forget his presence in your life or take him for granted, he is always ready to receive you back into his arms.

It's true that God is greater than you (or anyone else) can possibly imagine. His power and beauty and goodness are beyond our human comprehension. But God isn't a snob. He isn't too proud to come down to the level of human beings and be with them. He isn't too proud to be with you—even though you may sometimes feel unworthy of his goodness.

Maybe at times you've been proud and hard-hearted in relation to other people and to God. But you don't need to lose confidence. Trust in God. In Christ he freely forgives you and sets you on a clear path of life.

Lord Jesus, thank you for coming to me. Please keep me humble and repentant, so that I may live with confidence and hope in you. Amen.



Worship News

Please see below for this week's church service times;

Nhill: 10am Parish service

Including blessing of school staff and students

Church Office: 5391 1223



Prayer of the Week

Each week we pray for someone in our School Community. This week we pray for.....

- ♦ Abdullah and Moosa Ahmad and their family
- ♦ Esther Alexander and her family

Chapel

Chapel is held in the Multi Purpose Room on Friday at 9am. It will be run by Pastor Carl. Parents and friends are invited to join us and stay for morning tea and coffee.



Chapel Offering

At today's Chapel \$17 was collected and will go to the Maw Per Koh orphanage school in Myanmar. Thank you for blessing our sister school in Myanmar.



Get 'em Going

Get 'Em Going Playgroup has started again, meeting each Tuesday at 9.15 am. Each week children will be given the opportunity to participate in physical, social and mental stimulating activities to assist in preparing them for their learning journey ahead.

Please bring along the following:

- A water bottle
- Fruit snack
- Gold coin donation

If you have any questions or would like more information on the program please see Mrs Koning at the front office.



Lunch Orders

The current Wimmera Bakery lunch order list was sent home with students on Thursday. It can also be found using the Flexibuzz app. Students can order these items in the morning and they will be delivered in time for lunch. Please send a list to school on an envelope or in a zip lock bag, along with the money for the items. Small amounts of change can be given and will be sent home the same day.

Zooper Doopers are also for sale at school for \$1. The sale of these raises funds for the SRC. They can be ordered in the morning using the same envelope/bag as any lunch orders.

If students need their lunch reheated, can they please bring their food in a suitable container.

If there are any parents or friends who would be willing to pick up the lunches on a Friday, please contact Mrs Koning so a roster can be drawn up.

New Bibles

Our new students and Year 3 students received their own Bible at chapel today. Thanks to the Parents and Friends for donating these.



NLS volunteers

Reading Buddies Program

We are currently seeking some parent helpers to assist with our reading buddies program and Perceptual Motor Program (PMP). Reading buddies involves parent volunteers coming into classrooms and listening to students reading aloud. Volunteers must have a current Working With Children Check and complete the training that is explained below.

Volunteering at NLS

For all parents wishing to volunteer at school to help in the classroom, on camps or with other student activities this year, parents must bring the following to the front office: 1) a current Working with Children Check and; 2) a certificate of completion of one-hour Valuing Safe Community training session on-line within the past three years. As a school of the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA), staff and volunteers are obliged to meet the requirements of the LCA Safe Place Policy. Valuing Safe Communities (VSC) is a program to comply with this expectation. This training is valid for three years.

VSC Online Training Instructions

Go to <http://ilearn.alc.edu.au/course/view.php?id=170>. Follow the instructions. Use the Enrolment Key: VSC3_Volunt33r to gain access to the training. On-line training takes about 30-40 minutes. Certificates of completion will be generated at the end of the session. If you need any assistance, or would like to use a school computer to complete the training, please see Mrs Koning at the front office.

Hats

Please remember that hats are compulsory for Term 1. No hat means no play. Please make sure that all hats are named and maintained in good condition.

Child Safety

Students across all year levels will be revising Cyber Safety and how to protect themselves online. Key messages that you can also reinforce at home include; Informing students that nothing ever disappears from cyberspace; online behaviour and comments become a digital imprint visible to potential friends, employers etc.

At Nhill Lutheran School, we strongly encourage parents to develop appropriate on-line boundaries for their children. If you would like more information and advice, please visit the government Cyber Safety website at www.cybersafetyhelp.gov.au.



Swimming News

Students will begin swimming lessons, starting on Monday 17th February, and will be run daily between 11am-1.30pm. Students

will get changed at school and then walk down to the swimming pool. Students are encouraged to bring along sandals or other appropriate footwear to walk to the pool. Please make sure that all clothing is named.

The Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 28th February and we are seeking a few volunteers to assist us on the day. If you are able to assist please contact Mrs Koning at the front office.



INSIGHTS

Working closely with your child's teacher this year



In my work as a presenter and educator I've visited hundreds of schools, spoken with hundreds of school leaders and worked with many educational innovators and researchers at the forefront of modern education. These people and experiences have given me valuable insights into what makes great schools tick.

Strong parent-teacher relationships are one of the hallmarks of all great schools. They're a major contributor to student success. The research into schooling across the Western world reveals that positive parent-teacher partnerships are a more significant factor in student success than parent income levels or social status.

However, parent-teacher relationships require effort and energy from both parties if they are going to really benefit children and young people.

Way to help form strong bonds with your child's teachers this year:

Knowing (building affinity)

Know – the first element – requires you to be both proactive and patient. *Proactive because you need to be willing to meet and work at maintaining relationships. Patient because it may take some time to build a working relationship.* For your partnership to be meaningful and successful you need to meet with your children's teacher(s) with the goal of forming a respectful professional relationship. Share your aspirations for your child and be willing to build the teacher's knowledge about your family.

Get to know your child's teachers' aspirations and gain an understanding of their approach and the focus they have for this particular year group. Also commit to continuing to know what's going on in the life of your child's classrooms as well as the life of the school on an ongoing basis.

Supporting (building trust)

Children need to know that you are fully behind what their teachers are trying to achieve if they are going to commit fully to learning. The best way to support your child's teacher is to trust their knowledge, professionalism and experience. Avoid the temptation to question the expertise of teachers in front of students, particularly when the teachers use methods that you are unfamiliar with. Initiate conversations with teachers around methodology to give them the chance to explain the approach they are taking.

Participating (building links to student learning)

Participation – the third element – takes into account the level of parent engagement in student learning. There's a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent engagement in student learning and their educational success. If you want your child to improve his learning, take an interest in what he is doing. Follow school and teacher guidelines about helping at home and attend as many conferences, meetings and events involving your child as possible. This simple strategy has a significant, long-term impact.

parenting*ideas

Communicating (building relationships)

Life's not always smooth sailing for kids of any age. Family circumstances change. Friends move away. Illness happens. Mental health challenges can hit anyone at any time. These changes affect learning. Keep teachers up to date with significant changes or difficulties that your child or young person experiences so they can accommodate your child's emotional and learning needs at school.

Advocating (building loyalty)

Advocacy – the last element – means that you talk teachers and your school up rather than tear them down among children and the wider community. Teachers hold very public positions and generally work hard to build good reputations both within their school and their wider education community. Consider a teacher's reputation among the community and also with children when you discuss educational matters with others.

Building parent-teacher relationships doesn't just happen. They take good will from both sides, a commitment to setting aside the time necessary to support the home-based learning tasks that are expected, and a willingness to communicate both concerns and commendations through the correct channels.

Parent-teacher relationships – long may they prosper!



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 12 books for parents including *Spoonfed Generation* and the best-selling *Why First Borns Rule the World* and *Last Borns Want to Change It*. His latest release *Anxious Kids*, was co-authored with Dr Jodi Richardson.

Provided as a part of our school's Parenting Ideas membership

parentingideas.com.au

**TODAY'S THE DAY
TO HAVE A BLAST!**



Nhill Sporting Club Cricket Blast!

5 - 10 Year Olds

Every Saturday, February 8th to March 14th

9.30am to 11am @ Davis Park, Nhill

\$40 for a 5 week program + a pack with cap,
drink bottle, ball & bag

Register your interest with Tarrah Dodds

0438 329 042

VR at the Library

Explore the world—experience a Space walk, climb Mt. Everest or visit an Egyptian tomb with Virtual Reality.

Try our new VR equipment today—30 minute sessions

At Nhill Library from Tues Jan 21st to Sat Feb 15th
Bookings essential. See staff for details.



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REGIONAL LIBRARY
CORPORATION
your local library

Inspiring
AUSTRALIA

VICTORIA
State Government

Jobs,
Precincts
and Regions

The
ROYAL SOCIETY
OF VICTORIA
Promoting science since 1854

Raining Donations — FUNDRAISER —

A community fundraiser in aid of those suffering the devastation of the current bushfires. All proceeds from the night will be donated to
AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS • CFA VICTORIA • WILDLIFE VICTORIA

Nhill Golf Club
Saturday 1st February
5:30 WELCOME | 6:00 BBQ TEA

Quiz Night
Pharmacy Raffle Drawn | Door Prizes | Silent Auction
Live music from Jeff Woodward

\$20 DOOR ENTRY DONATION
KIDS FREE

Free shuttle bus
will run throughout the night

WILDLIFE
VICTORIA



GOD'S 4 FENCES

Kids Camp 2020

Tuesday 31st March – Thursday 2nd April



Tandara Lutheran Camp – Halls Gap

For 9-12 year olds only

\$170

Registrations are limited, use the link to register

<http://www.tandara.org.au/app/register/form/1>

kerry.linke@camptandara.com

(03) 5356 4253





Dance & Drama at The Patch

Commencing Wednesday 12th February

The Nhill Community Performing Arts Program is an activity run by The Nhill Learning Centre. It is open to all students of primary and secondary school age and will run every Wednesday of each term.

DANCE: to be held at "The Patch", 9 Clarence St, Nhill

After a warm up, participants will learn good techniques to maintain their safety and look after their bodies whilst dancing. Sessions will cover various dance styles over the course of the program. These include ballet, lyrical, jazz, tap and more!

Years 3 - 4 students: 3.45pm – 4.30pm

Years F - 2: 4.30pm – 5.00pm

Years 5 & above: 5.00pm – 6.00pm



DRAMA: to be held at "RSL Room", 10 Clarence St, Nhill

During drama sessions, participants will explore various technique skills, areas of expression, and styles of performance. These include, amongst others, vocal projection and characterisation, gesture, mime, improvisation, melodrama, script interpretation, and performance creation.

Year 5 & above students: 4.00pm – 5.00pm

Years F – 4 students: 5.00pm – 5.45pm



Cost: \$40.00 for dance OR drama for the term, or \$50.00 for both dance AND drama

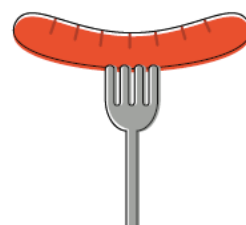
Nhill Learning Centre
80 MacPherson Street, Nhill, 3418
Ph: 53879 800



The Parents and Friends Association of the
Nhill Lutheran School

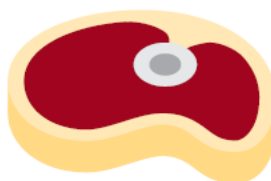
Invite all School families to our

Welcome BBQ



Friday the 7th February 2020

6.30pm start



RSVP: to the School by Monday 3rd February 2020



Bring a salad or dessert to share,
except for Foundation and new
School families as we are
welcoming you to the School.
Meat supplied. BYO chair.
Tea, coffee, water and gluten free
options available.