

## Harmony Day

Harmony Day celebrates our country's cultural diversity. What better way to celebrate than dress in traditional costumes.



James, Helena and Savannah



Harshu, Betty and Mystery

## Upcoming Dates



MAR	Friday 19th	Last day of Book Fair
	Friday 19th	Harmony Day
	Monday 29th	Cross Country
	Tues 30th— Wed 31st	Parent-Teacher Interviews
APR	1st	Last day of Term 1
	1st	Cybersafety session for Years 3-6

## Birthdays

We wish the following students a very happy birthday:

Aaron Pedie: Monday 22nd March

Nathan Pedie: Monday 22nd March



## From the Principal

This week I am able to do something that was unable to happen in 2020. Lutheran Principals and Business Managers from Victoria, NSW and Tasmania are gathering with staff from LEVNT (Lutheran Education Vic, NSW, Tas) in Melbourne. I lost count the number of times we met as leaders last year via Zoom, especially during the hectic times of lockdowns and remote learning, so it's great we can again gather face to face. LEVNT provide our school with considerable support in many areas of school oversight.

### Parent teacher interviews

Please complete the interview booking form and return to school no later than Monday March 22 if you are yet to do so. We are looking forward to sharing this time with parents.

### Foundations first Wednesday

Congratulations to the Foundation students and Miss Noll for completing their first full week of schooling. Foundation students attended for the first time on a Wednesday this week.

### Harmony Day

Our school, and indeed our wider community, reflects a broad diversity of cultures. Today our students celebrated our inclusive school, our respect for each other, and our sense of belonging for everyone by dressing in orange or cultural attire, and participating in activities for Harmony Day.

### Entering Holy Week

The week leading up to Easter is often referred to as Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday. Next Friday our Foundation class will be leading chapel with a Palm Sunday focus, something to look forward to (the singing practice is sounding great!).

Every blessing for your week.  
Damon Prenzler

## Loud Shirt Day

On Thursday the staff surprised the students with an impromptu dress up day.



## Chapel

Thank you to the Year 1/2 class for leading our Creation Chapel this morning. Thank you also the visitors who joined us.





## Devotional Thought

### Gravestones

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms (John 14:1,2).

[Read John 14:1-14](#)

Maybe it sounds a bit strange if I tell you that I love strolling around cemeteries. It is not because I have a hidden desire to die but because I love looking at gravestones.

We know what gravestones look like and what we can read there. It is usually the name, date of birth, day of death, 'RIP', or sometimes the person's profession. Sometimes we can find symbols of life, like a branch of a palm tree, a cross or even a Bible verse. Gravestones speak their own language. Some messages go much deeper than many long sermons.

On the stone of a 16-year-old girl who died in a car accident, I noticed there were none of these Christian symbols. There were only a few capital letters, chiseled with heavy hammer blows: 'WHY?'. At the age of 16, life is only just starting – finishing school, dating, looking for a job. All the despair, impotent anger and grief of this family cried out of this one little word: 'WHY?'.

More than 30 years ago, I discovered a very different gravestone at the cemetery in Neuendettelsau, Germany. Shaped like a simple cross and at the bottom, you can read the name and the dates – nothing special. But what impressed me was one single word, written at the crosspiece: 'Daheim', translated as 'At home'. Not a long sermon on a resurrection – only the German word meaning 'At home'. What a deep peace and comfort that flows out of here. Of course, the relatives of that person were crying and mourning as well. This farewell was definitely not easy for them. But they had a view and a perspective that reached further than six feet under.

What enables and drives people to turn a gravestone – the ultimate sign of death – into a sermon of life? Hope in the presence of grief – this is what Christ brings into this world and what we celebrate at Christmas. Life in the presence of sickness and death – this is what we celebrate at Easter. Christ is not the great magician who spirits away all our doubts, difficulties, challenges, sickness and death. He is the one who comes into our life. He is the one who walks with us side by side like with the two disciples on their way to Emmaus. He is the one who leads us through. He is the one who promises to take us home.

What do you want to be chiseled at your gravestone?

**Prayer: Pray for Christ to lead you through life in the presence of doubts, difficulties, challenges, sickness and death. Thank God that he promises to take you home.**

## Worship News

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

Nhill: 9 am—AGM

Woorak: 9 am

Jeparit: 11 am



Wednesday 24th March Lenten Reflection:  
Woorak at 7.30 pm

Register for Sunday (before Thurs 5pm) via  
the Parish Office: [nhillpar2@bigpond.com](mailto:nhillpar2@bigpond.com)  
or 5391 1223

[NhillLutheranParishOnline.com](http://NhillLutheranParishOnline.com)

## Prayer of the Week

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

- ♦ Olivia and Ayden Fritsch and their family
- ♦ Mia Grover and her family

## Chapel

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



## Chapel Offering

At today's Chapel \$91.40 was collected and will go to the Maw Per Koh orphanage school in Myanmar. So far this year, \$294.70 has been generously received from Chapel offerings. Thank you for blessing our sister school in Myanmar.

## More Harmony Day photos



Savior



Shilah, Harper and Eden



## Nhill Tiger News

Under 12s Football Training commences on Thursday 25th March from 4.30—5.30 pm.

All past and new players welcome.

Coach: Rob Bell 0407 522 264

Team Manager: Jess Mason

## Get Active Kids Voucher Program

For 2021, the Victorian Government has opened up a voucher program to assist junior players with the cost of memberships, registrations, uniform and equipment. This is called the Get Active Kids Voucher Program and it provides vouchers of up to \$200. Applications are only open from Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> of March (from 10am) until Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> of April. To take advantage of this offer, children must be aged 4 to 18 and named on a valid Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card and Medicare card. Applications for the program and further details can be found here: <https://www.getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers/>

## Swimming

Well done to Henry for qualifying and competing in the breaststroke finals at the Greater Western Region swimming day today. We wish him all the best.



## NLS volunteers

### Reading Buddies Program

We are currently seeking some parent helpers to assist with our reading buddies program . Reading buddies involves parent volunteers 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.

## Lost Uniforms

Could all parents please check uniform items to ensure that your child has the correct one.

Please label all items of uniform so that they can be returned.



Listen to Messages of Hope and invite others to do the same. Download or listen online at [messagesofhope.org.au](http://messagesofhope.org.au).

**21<sup>st</sup> March      Finding Hope in South Sudan      (Interview)**

At a time when our lives have never been so uncertain, Jonathan Krause from ALWS shares what we can learn from people who live with constant challenge and uncertainty.

**28<sup>th</sup> March      Living Water      (Pastor Noel Due)**

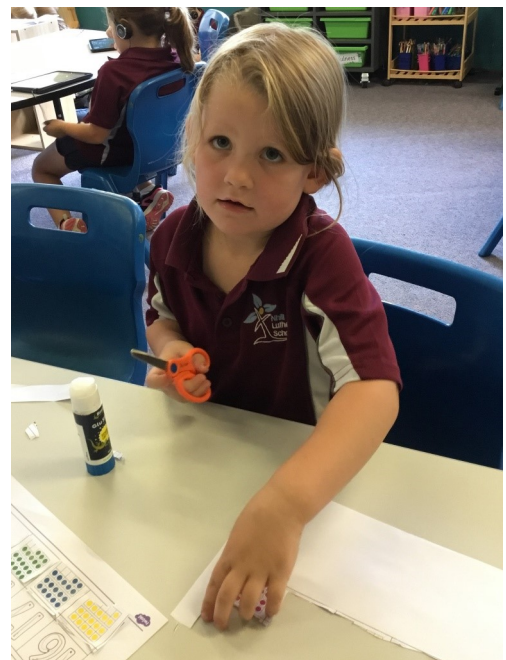
Are you thirsting for love? Forgiveness? Approval? Noel Due offers hope to quench those thirsts.

### CORONAVIRUS RESOURCES

As coronavirus restrictions continue and some tighten further, there are challenges and changes to navigate. Life looks a bit different and feels uncertain which can make us feel stressed or anxious. For resources to help make sense of what you're going through and give you hope, go to [www.messagesofhope.org.au/coronavirus](http://www.messagesofhope.org.au/coronavirus).



## Around the School





## Parenting Ideas—Webinars and Guides

Our school has a Parenting Ideas membership which enables us to publish articles in our newsletter. I hope you find these articles useful and informative. In addition to the articles, Parenting Ideas also provides support for parents through webinars and eGuides. Parents of Nhill Lutheran School are able to access free webinars provided by Parenting Ideas (usually the cost is \$39). Some of the webinars have already occurred and have been recorded, others are planned for later this year. To gain free access to a webinar simply request a voucher from the school, which will have all the details you need to view the webinar. Upcoming webinars include:

*Communicating with teenage boys –*  
March 24 at 8pm, valid to June 24

*Connecting with teenage daughters –*  
June 23 at 8pm, valid to September 23

The eGuides are booklets that are also available free to parents. They cover the topics of *optimism, family meetings, friends, coping, understanding children's behaviour, and bring out your child's confidence.* Copies of the eGuides can be sent electronically by the school, just ask via [admin@nls.vic.edu.au](mailto:admin@nls.vic.edu.au) or phone the school.

parenting\*ideas

# NHILL LIONS COMMUNITY MARKET

**Jaypex Park - Nhill,  
Victoria  
9 am to 1 pm**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March  
2021**

Contact: Lesley – 0419 135 132

Email: [NhillLionsCommunityMarket@gmail.com](mailto:NhillLionsCommunityMarket@gmail.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NhillLionsCommunityMarket/](https://www.facebook.com/NhillLionsCommunityMarket/)

## INSIGHTS

### When kids experience problems at school



*Every parent wants the best for their children, and that includes wanting them to have great experiences at school. By and large, Australian schools deliver on that expectation. They are generally safe places for kids, staffed by hard-working teachers who have the best interests of their students at heart. Achievement, discipline and student wellbeing are high on the list of priorities for most teachers.*

Nevertheless, despite the best teaching practices things do go wrong at school. Most kids experience learning difficulties from time to time. Conflict and peer rejection are a normal part of school life. The developmental nature of childhood means that there will always be some turbulence, particularly around key transition ages such as the start of adolescence. During these times young people frequently experience a dip in their learning as well as significant relationship difficulties. Kids will often come home from school with grievances, and call on their parents for assistance.

Your approach as a parent when your child has difficulty at school can make a huge difference to their resilience and to their future relationships with teachers and peers. This includes not only any advice you may give and the way you give it, but also the way you approach the school, if that becomes necessary. Unfortunately, anecdotal evidence suggests that there's been a significant increase in aggressive incidents at schools involving parents reacting to their children's grievances. This presents a danger to teachers, harms the all-important teacher-parent relationship, and sets a bad example to children about how to resolve differences.

**Here's a seven point checklist to help you stay focused and be effective if your child experiences difficulty at school.**

#### **1. Be empathetic first**

Kids, like adults, like to vent. They will often benefit simply from having told their side of a story to a trusted source. Often they just want their parents to understand what's happening, so your first response should be an empathetic one. That is, your child should feel you understand them and take them seriously. "That's awful. I'd be upset too if someone stole my lunch" is the sort of response kids want to hear when they are genuinely upset.

#### **2. Stay calm and take your time**

It's natural as a parent to want to protect or defend your children, particularly when you think that they've come in for some unfair or poor treatment. But acting when you are full of emotion is not always smart as emotions make us prone to over-reaction and jumping to all sorts of possibly incorrect conclusions.

Rather than getting on the phone straight away to organise a meeting at school, take your time to think through how you might assist your child. Time generally provides greater perspective, which will likely lead to a better response from you.



### 3. Get the all facts

Getting the facts about the situation can be really tricky. Kids are faulty observers and often only see one side of a story when there's a problem with a teacher or a fellow student. They sometimes can't see that perhaps they may have contributed inadvertently to a dispute at school, or perhaps said something that may have upset a teacher. It's your job to help your child or young person process what happened in an incident, so that all the facts emerge and you can fully understand their place in any problem. Keep asking questions to enable the complete story to unfold.



### 4. Assess whether to go to school or not

Often problems can be dealt with at home, simply by talking through an issue and giving kids some common sense tips to help them cope. However, if your child has a recurring problem that he can't solve himself, or you think adult intervention may be needed to sort out a relationship issue with a teacher or peer, then consider meeting with your child's teacher or year-level coordinator.

### 5. Use the right channels if you take the issue to school

Approach the school calmly, going through the school office or directly to your child's teacher if that is the usual protocol. If you have already established a relationship with the teacher concerned, then it's often easier to approach them directly.

### 6. Look for solutions rather than blame

Parent-teacher meetings usually get nowhere when either party blames the other. State the problem as you see it and view your child's teacher as an ally, not a foe. "I'm really worried about Jeremy. He's been acting strangely lately and I need some help" is the type of approach that will elicit a helpful response. Talk about your concerns and keep the discussion focused firmly on what's best for your child. Listen to your teacher's viewpoint, valuing a different perspective.

### 7. Stay in touch

Be realistic with your expectations, remembering that some problems can't be solved to your satisfaction, nor will they be resolved straight away. Be prepared to work alongside your child's teacher over the long-term, which means maintaining communication with each other.

Parenting is easy when things are going well, but testing when your children struggle or experience difficulty. Stepping back and taking a long-term, reflective view is often the best approach when your child experiences difficulty at school.



#### Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's an award-winning speaker and the author of 12 books for parents including *Spoonfed Generation*, and the bestselling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*. Michael is a former teacher with 15 years experience, and has 30 years experience in parenting education. He also holds a Master of Educational Studies from Monash University specialising in parenting education.

# LET'S DO THIS

LEARN THE NETBALL BASICS, GET OUTSIDE AND MAKE  
SOME FRIENDS.  
PLAY SUNCORP NETSETGO  
AT YOUR LOCAL CENTRE.



## VENUE

NHILL & DISTRICT SPORTING CLUB, Davis Avenue, Nhill

## SESSION DAYS & TIMES

THURSDAYS 4PM

## START DATE

THURSDAY 22ND APRIL, 2021

## CONTACT

Casey Hiscock - 0427 227 382.

COST: \$68 incl. pack + club m'ship

Registrations are OPEN, visit [PLAY.NETBALL.COM.AU](http://PLAY.NETBALL.COM.AU).

Find your nearest centre at [play.netball.com.au](http://play.netball.com.au)

