

Upcoming Dates



February

Foundation Free Wednesdays all February

Mon 13th—Thurs 23rd Swim Program for 2 weeks.

Tues 21st School Board 7.30pm

Fri 24th Swimming Carnival 9.30am to 12.30

Tues 28th P&F Annual & General meeting 8pm

March

Wed 8th Wimmera Field Day (yr1-6) school excursion

Mon 13th Labour Day public holiday

Wed 15th Foundation first Wednesday

Wed 15th to Fri 17th Naplan for Year 3 and 5

Mon 20th to Fri 24th Naplan for Year 3 and 5

Tues 21st School Board 7.30pm

Mon 27th to Tues 28th Year 5/6 Leadership overnight camp @ Tindara

Fri 31st Foundation to Year 2 Roses Gap Excursion

April

Tues 4th Parent Teacher Interviews

Wed 5th Parent Teacher Interviews

Thurs 6th Last Day Term pick up 2.15pm

Fri 7th Good Friday

Mon 24th Pupil Free Day

Tues 25th Anzac Day public holiday

Wed 26th Students return for Term 2

Thurs 24th Year 2 Sleepover @ School

May

3rd to 5th Year 3/4 Camp @ MtGambier

Who's been cooking in the mud Kitchen?

Some of our students went out to the mud kitchen before school on Thursday, they got a surprise to see a praying mantis cooking in the kitchen. The students said hello to the "chef al amantas" and then bided him/her farewell.



Permission Slip Reminder

The following excursions still have a few outstanding permission slips that need to be returned before 6th March 2023. If you need another form contact Mrs Fisher.

Wimmera Field Days 8/3/23:
Year 1 to Year 6 classes only

Roses Gap 31/3/23
Foundation / Year 1 / Year 2 classes only

Chapel (note change of day)

The next Chapel will be on **Wed 22/2/23** at 9am in the Multi Purpose Room . Ash Wednesday.

Hosted by Pastor Carl



From the Principal

The students and staff are to be commended for balancing their learning and teaching with swimming lessons. Walking around classrooms and the school in Week 3 means seeing more samples of student learning on display, and there are some fantastic things to see. In every class I am seeing students eager to learn, ranging from learning letter sounds and symbols in Foundation to deep thinking and inquiry in our oldest class.

Swimming

Swimming lessons continue next week. A letter will be distributed next week about our Swimming Carnival on Friday. We will need parent help on the day, and if you are willing to do so please let your child's teacher know, or our Sport Coordinator Mr Holt.

Welcome BBQ

The weather was kind to us last Friday with a cool change arriving just in time for our Welcome BBQ. Thank you to the P&F and their helpers for making this happen. The Welcome BBQ is a lovely way to connect and build a sense of community.

School Board and P&F

Meetings for the School Board and P&F start in the next week or two, School Board on the 21 st and P&F on the 28 th . Nhill Lutheran School is grateful to both bodies for the support they provide the school in governance and in fundraising/community building.

LEVNT Western Hub

Yesterday Nhill Lutheran School was privileged to host the LEVNT Western Hub Principals. Principals from Lutheran schools in Portland, Hamilton, Tarrington, Horsham, Dimboola and Mildura, together with staff from LEVNT met at Nhill to collaborate and discuss important education matters which impact our schools.

Chapel theme

This morning we started our new Chapel theme 'Animals in the Bible', starting with the creation story of God creating animals. Chapel next week will be on Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, led by Pastor Carl.

Every blessing for your week.

Damon Prenzler

Parent and Friends of NLS

Reminder about the P&F Annual and General meeting on the 28th Feb at the school 8pm. Nomination forms were sent home to each family if you are willing to nominate yourself or someone else for an executive position or be a committee member, they will need to be returned to the school office by Friday 24th February.

Welcome BBQ

Last Friday night several families and staff gathered to welcome in the new 2023 year as a School community. A huge thank you to the BBQ chefs, the P&F members who had to set up and get the lovely salads and desserts out for us to indulge our taste buds with the flavours. But as each function needs to be cleaned up, another huge thank you for those who helped with this. The weather played its part in the evening giving everyone a lovely cool breeze, after a warm day to sit around, chat and watch all the children enjoy each others company. (photos later in the newsletter)

Devotional Thought

What are you looking for?

When Jesus turned and saw them following him, he asked them: **What are you looking for?** (John 1:38a).

Read [John 1:35-42](#)

Interesting question! Interesting answer!

The two followers of John knew there was more to life. John had given that hint earlier (see John 1:19-34). So when John pointed out Jesus, they naturally went after him. But then he asked: 'What are you looking for?' Many people have asked that of themselves over time. The band U2 had a hit with *I still haven't found what I'm looking for*. Apart from the music, perhaps it was such a big hit because people struggle to answer the question: what are you looking for? They don't really know, so they keep searching.

These followers of John answered Jesus' question with a question (I'm told I do that quite a bit ...). But their question avoided Jesus' question! However, Jesus wasn't fussed; he was happy to show them where he was staying (their question). And he met with them, and talked with them. He met them where they were (in life).

Astonishingly, from this encounter, Andrew, one of the two followers, gains life. He says to his brother, Simon (Peter): we have found the Messiah, the Christ. Then, there were two disciples!

All this, from Jesus not trying to change Andrew, or force him to answer the question, but by meeting him where he was. By allowing Andrew to find the Christ.

What are you looking for? Perhaps you know the answer, or perhaps like many, you are uncertain. Jesus simply invites you to spend time with him; to rest in his presence; to become overcome with love and grace and presence. Then Jesus can reveal himself. You can find Jesus, as Jesus reveals himself to you.

Still haven't found what you're looking for? Look to Jesus for the answer.

Jesus, often we keep looking when the answer is right in front of us. Help us to pause in your presence, enjoy your company and then live with our eyes open. Amen.

Worship News

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

Transfiguration Synod Sunday

9am at Nhill

11am at Jeparit



Nhill Lutheran Parish

NhillLutheranParishOnline.com

Prayer of the Week

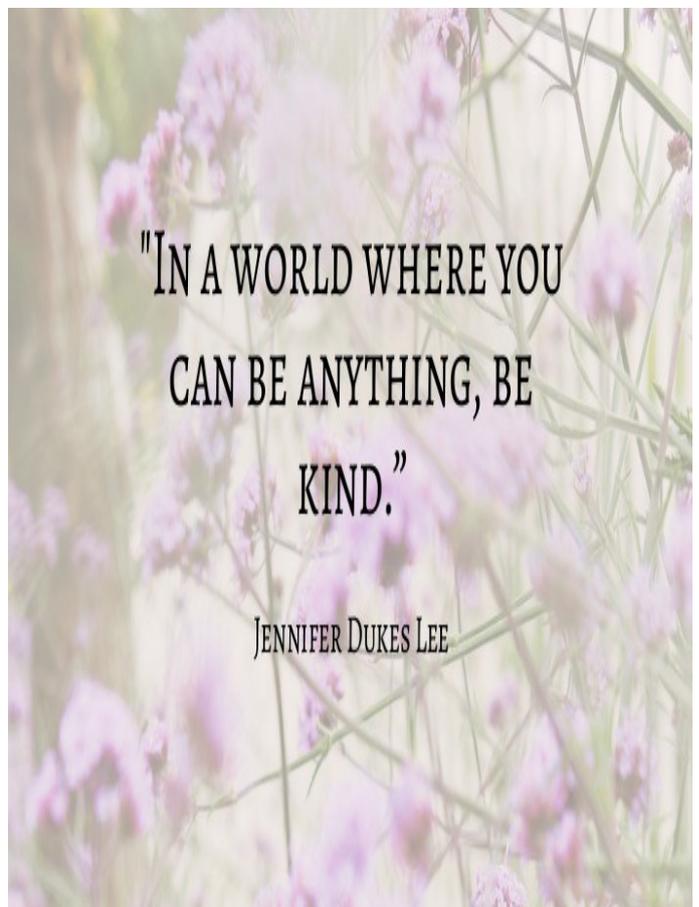
Each week we pray for someone in our School Community. This week we pray for.....



- ◆ Sophie B and her family
- ◆ Chelsea and her family
- ◆ Darcy & Connor and their family

Chapel Offerings

At today's Chapel \$9.90 was collected for the Maw Per Koh orphanage school in Myanmar. Please consider sending an offering each Friday morning as the children there rely on our help.



He felt his presents!

What Has Happened This Week

Get 'Em Going Playgroup

We had a great start to playgroup this week, lots of families came to enjoy the morning.

It was so lovely to meet all the new faces, the children played with playdough, pasted pieces of paper onto a heart shape for Valentines Day. Lots of physical activity was explored by the children with the mini -tramp and climbing structures, a great way to let them learn new skills in a safe environment. Thanks Mrs Leitch.

Look forward to seeing you all back next week.

Get 'Em Going Playgroup will be meeting each Tuesday at 9.30am.

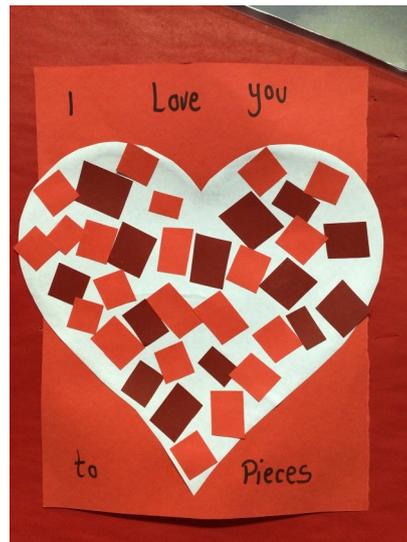
Each week children will be given the opportunity to participate in physical, social and mental stimulating activities to assist in preparing them for their learning journey ahead.

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 contact Mrs Fisher at the front office.

53 912 144 or admin@nls.vic.edu.au



Students of the Week

Congratulations to the following students who were presented with Student of the Week awards at assembly today:

Foundation: Amber

Yr 1/2: Ruby

Yr 3/4: Savannah & Sophie B

Yr 5/6: Aaron

Cards from Anne Webster MP



All the Year 6 Leaders were presented at assembly today with a congratulations card sent from Anne Webster MP



What Has Happened This Week

Bananas the Monkey

This year we have welcomed a new member of the School, it is a monkey. The name was chosen by the students today at assembly the majority voted for **Bananas**. So welcome Bananas to the school.

Congratulations to McKenzie for receiving Bananas the Monkey at assembly today. We hope you both enjoy your time together.



parenting ideas schools **School belonging starts at home**

Belonging is a hot topic right now. It's on posters and internet memes, with some schools making it their number one priority. A sense of belonging at school has been linked to many benefits – including better grades, improved physical and mental health, and positive outcomes for future education or employment. But what does school belonging mean and what steps can you, as a parent, take to encourage it?

In psychology, a sense of belonging refers to the feeling that you form an integral part of your surroundings. Humans can be highly motivated to seek out a sense of belonging. For many people belonging emerges from relationships and bonds with other people. These bonds come from many sources. Most children first begin to form bonds with their family circle. As they grow up, their social connections expand beyond the household. Naturally, since kids spend a significant portion of their days at school, the school becomes a key environment to form connections and experience feelings of belonging.

Benefits of school belonging

The most accepted definition of school belonging comes from psychologists Goodnow and Grady (1993). They describe school belonging as “the extent to which students feel personally accepted, respected, included, and supported by others in the school social environment.”

Psychologists often view school belonging from an ecological perspective. In other words, multiple supports (teachers, parents, peers, etc.) come together to encourage school belonging.

Overall wellbeing, academic achievements, better physical and mental health, and increased self-esteem are often cited as benefits of school belonging. Similarly, prosocial behaviours, including participation in classroom and extracurricular activities, have been reported in students who feel connected to their schools. School belonging can also have the potential to prevent negative outcomes such as school dropout, low academic achievement, low self-esteem, behavioural issues, and feelings of anxiety and loneliness. Now that we've established the importance of school belonging, let's explore the role that parents play. The following suggestions are actions that you can take to support your kid's sense of belonging at school.

Offer academic support and encouragement

In a 2007 study of American middle school girls, Pauline Garcia-Reid found that parental support is directly related to school engagement. School engagement (e.g., participation in class or extracurriculars) is a facilitator of school belonging. The students in Garcia-Reid's study who reported higher levels of supportive parental behaviours were more positively engaged in school.

Examples of academic support and encouragement include having regular conversations about school, classes your kid is taking, and plans for the future. These conversations can help nurture a desire to engage and achieve at school and inspire plans for higher education.

Get involved

There are many ways to get involved in your kid's education – at home and at school. Ideally, your kid's school will provide opportunities for involvement, such as invitations to school activities or opportunities to provide input in educational decisions. Other examples of at-home involvement include sharing educational values and supervising school activities (e.g., monitoring homework).

Contrary to popular belief, research suggests that parental school involvement is just as important during the middle and later years of education as it is for younger years (Mo & Singh, 2008). Of course, that may be easier said than done. As teens gain more independence and busy schedules get in the way, it is common for parents to step back from school involvement. But remember – school involvement comes in many forms. Small steps, like attending a parent evening or getting in touch with a teacher, can still go a long way for your kid's engagement and performance in school.

Form close family relationships

Positive family relationships, for example, parent-child relationships, incorporate all of the strategies we have explored so far. Supportive behaviour, encouraging communication, and active involvement in your kid's life – at school and beyond – all contribute to a strong relationship.

Close family relationships may not seem especially relevant to education. However, research shows that family relationships directly affect school connectedness and academic performance (Kelly et al., 2012; Mo & Singh, 2008).

At the end of the day, it's about being there for your kids. When kids feel like they can come to you for support and advice in their everyday lives, that feeling will extend to support for school. A sense of belonging at home, in the community, and at school can do wonders for your kid's academic engagement and achievement.

Most of us take the first steps to a healthy sense of belonging at home, closely followed by school. Although we continue to form our sense of belonging throughout our lives, school belonging plays a crucial role in kids' development and motivation to belong moving forward.

Teachers, educational policymakers, and parents all have a role to play in encouraging school belonging.

References

Garcia-Reid, P. (2007). Examining social capital as a mechanism for improving school engagement among low income hispanic girls. *Youth & Society*, 39, 164-181.

Goodnow, C., & Grady, K. E. (1993). The relationship of school belonging and friends' values to academic motivation among urban adolescent students. *Journal of Experimental*



Dr Kelly-Ann Allen

Dr Kelly-Ann Allen, PhD FAPS, is an Educational and Developmental Psychologist, a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Education, Monash University, and an Honorary Senior Fellow at the Centre for Wellbeing Science, University of Melbourne. Her research underscores the importance of a sense of belonging as a universal human need and she has built an international reputation for her work in the area of school belonging.

19th February Living Amongst Floods (Interview)

“For us to be caught in the floods, the biggest thing was that we couldn’t leave.” Listen to Charmaine share her story about being trapped in the NSW floods.

26th February Comfort for Tragedy (Interview)

What do you do when you receive a phone call that there is a bushfire in your area? Richard shares how bushfires affected his family and the community he grew up in.

Hockey Clinic Monday 20th Feb

Students will be doing hockey clinics next Monday. Sports uniform may be worn.

Year 5/6 @ 12pm

Year 3/4 @ 12.30pm

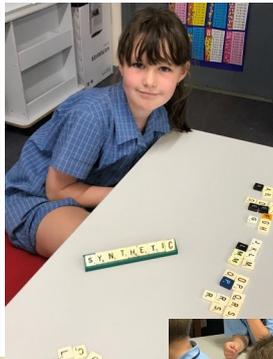
Year 1/2 @ 2pm

Foundation @ 2.30pm

LEVNT Western Hub Principal Term 1, Get Together at Nhill



Year 3/4 class and Sport Photos



Mr Holt's Riddle

How did Darth Vader know what Luke got him for Christmas?

Answer is somewhere in the newsletter

Kids Camp 2023

Araluen
Lutheran Camp, Anglesea

Araluen Lutheran Camp

April 12-14

Cost: \$195 per/child

Ages 9-12

Registrations close March 31st

the fruit of the Spirit

HINDMARSH SHIRE LIBRARIES

KIDS CRAFT CLUB

Get creative at Nhill Library

3rd Wednesday of the month,
during school terms, from 3:30pm.

FREE for all school aged children.

Contact Nhill Library | 5391 4449 | hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE BASKETBALL AUSTRALIA

WHO'S READY FOR 3X3

CLB 3x3 AUS

BASKETBALL

CLB 3X3 HORSHAM

OUTDOOR NETBALL COURTS - PARK DVE HORSHAM

FRIDAY 17TH FEB 2023	SATURDAY 18TH FEB 2023	SUNDAY 19TH FEB 2023
FREE COME N TRY 3X3 SESSIONS 4PM-6PM	OPENS SOCIAL & ELITE ALL GENDERS, ALL SKILL LEVELS FROM 12PM ONWARDS \$150 PER TEAM	JUNIORS U13'S / U15'S / U18'S FROM 10AM ONWARDS \$120 PER TEAM

Prize Money / Prizes / Food & Beverage / Music / 3 point shoot outs / FIBA3X3 Ranking Points

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER:

play.fiba3x3 | HORNETS | CLB 3x3 AUS | THE HORSHAM TIMES | READY