

### Year 6 Graduation Dinner

On Wednesday night the 2023 graduating students celebrated with their peers, teachers, staff and parents at the Little Desert Lodge. A night of reflection of their learning experience at NLS and their future dreams were shared with the proud parents and staff. We wish each and everyone of them the very best in secondary school, you have shown us how you are adaptable, compassionate and curious of the world around you.



### Upcoming Dates

#### December

**Mon 11th** End of Year Graduation Service 7pm (all students expected to attend)

**Wed 13th** Last Day Term 4 finish 3.15pm

**Thurs 14th** Staff PD

**Sat 16th** Nhill Community Christmas Carols @Jaypex Park

**Staff return 23rd January – Students start 30th January**

**2024 Term Dates can be found in newsletter**

### Birthdays

Happy birthday wishes are sent to the following students & staff:

Jed 12th December

Trinity 14th December

Mrs Crouch 17th December

Roger 18th December

Sophie 20th December

Mrs Alexander 10th January

Mrs Lees 18th January

Lawson 19th January

Maddy 25th January



## From the Principal

As we conclude the 2023 school year, I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas. May God bless you at this time where we remember the birth of Jesus.

The end of the school year is a time to reflect, and to thank God for all he has done for our school in 2023. I am grateful for the amazing learning experiences and activities our students were able to undertake this year: excursions to Wimmera Field Days and Roses Gap, camps to Mount Gambier and Anglesea; community events including the Welcome BBQ, Mother's Day morning tea, Father's Day footy, Grandparent's Day, the P&F connecting with community through donuts and catering at the Nhill Show; and more. I am thankful for times where students have been able to showcase their talents and serve others: swimming and athletics carnivals, our successful hockey 7's team, serving the Iona residents, contributing towards Australian Lutheran World Service, and who can forget our incredible performance of The Amazing Adventures of Super Stan.

Nhill Lutheran School will look different in the new year as we embark on a building program which will transform the look and feel of the school, providing modern learning spaces for our students to benefit their learning. It will be exciting to see the progress of the new building. Builders will be on site next week and the following week, before returning in the new year.

A final end-of-year correspondence will be distributed next week instead of our usual newsletter. I look forward to seeing you at our End of Year Graduation Service next Monday.

Every blessing,

Damon Prenzler

## Unveiling At Nhill Police Station

### Slippers and Gumboots

We would like to remind parents that they can pick up their child's slippers and gumboots that are too small for them, that are left here at the school, before next Wednesday.

Obviously the Year 6 students will be taking theirs home with them.



Mr Prenzler and school captains, Chelsea and Imogen, had the privilege of seeing a portrait of Constable Edward O'Neill DCM unveiled at the Nhill Police station on Wednesday. They heard stories about Constable O'Neill and met members of his family.

***Nhill Lutheran School is committed to providing a child safe and child friendly environment, where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and are able to actively participate in decisions that affect their lives.***

## Year 1/2 Class



Miss Schultz had invited friends of the school to be interviewed by the Year 1/2 class about their experiences of going to school. There was so much chatter going on and the students were all engaged with what the guests had to say, they were busy writing their answers to be compiled to complete the Unit of Inquiry "Through the Generations."


## Worship News

Please see below for this week's church service times:  
Nhill 11am  
Jeparit 9am  
NhillLutheranParishOnline.com




## Prayer of the Week

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

- ◇ Annabella and her family 
- ◇ Henry & Matilda and their family

## Chapel Offerings

 At today's Chapel \$3.20 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.

**The Combined Churches of Nhill invite you to come CAROLING THROUGH THE STREETS OF NHILL**  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December  
Gather 5:45 pm @ The Nhill Lake  
Family Friendly Event  
Children Welcome to Dress Nativity-Themed  
(a BBQ Tea will be available during the event)

## Devotional Thought

Show us your kindness  
Show us your kindness, so we can be saved (Psalm 80:3).

Read [Psalm 80:1-7,17-19](#)

These words are spoken three times, prefaced by the phrase, 'Lord God All-Powerful, take us back'. In between, there is a list of what God has done for the people. Again, these are interspersed with mini-comments, suggesting the people had fallen away. The relationship seems to have been on again, off again. At least from the people's side!

It is very much a human psalm! Look at verses 4, 5, 6, 12, 13 and 16. According to the writer, God has turned away. Built the people up, then let them down. How often do we think like that? Things are going swimmingly. God is good to us! But then something bad happens. We cry: Where are you, God? Why have you let this happen? Why are you punishing me?

And it's okay when we ask these things. The psalmist does so. God can handle it. Sometimes (always?), we think we can't express our true emotions to God: those when we are feeling down, disappointed or questioning. But that is just when God wants us to come with our raw feelings. The God revealed in the Bible – and especially in the Psalms – is not one who turns away from us at the first sight of complaint, anger or despair.

We may feel uncomfortable thinking or expressing these things, but God can handle it. God is there waiting for us. That is shown by this refrain: God, take us back. Show us your kindness so we can be saved.

Despite complaining, blaming God, and expressing frustration with God's actions, the psalmist knows in their heart that God is a God of compassion. A big enough God to let the insults fly by. A God of kindness who knows our every thought and values our every feeling. A God of kindness who offers a new beginning every day, whose mercies are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22,23).

That's the God this psalmist knows. That's the God this psalmist can trust in. That's the God we know and can trust in.

**Lord God All-Powerful, show us your kindness so we can be saved. Amen.**



# Year 6 Graduation Dinner Photos



## Get 'Em Going Playgroup

Get 'Em Going Playgroup meet each Tuesday at 9.30am to 11am.

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](mailto:admin@nls.vic.edu.au)

Only one week to go, so we are busy making Christmas decorations, with lots of glitter and bright colours. Totem tennis game got a bashing with the bats, the rocking horse was rocked like it was in a race, and the playdough was being cooked in the oven, and the cars and trucks were busy driving around the floor. I look forward to seeing you next week. Thanks Mrs Leitch.



## 2024 Term Dates



**Term One:** January 30 – March 28

**Term Three:** July 15 – September 20

*Student Free Days: Sept 6th*

**Term Two:** April 15 – June 25.

*Student Free Days: April 26  
and June 26-28.*

**Term Four:** October 7 – December 12

*Student Free Days: Dec 13th*



## Help your Year 6 child make a smooth transition into secondary school.

A recent ACER study led by Life Ed found that a significant number of Australian students feel underprepared and nervous about the move to secondary school. That's why Life Ed has launched a comprehensive program of free online resources to assist students make the leap from Year 6 to Year 7... and land firmly on their feet.

### Check out Life Ed's **'Guide to Thrive'** online resources created to help with this time of change.

You'll find the resources on the [Life Ed website](#). They're up-to-the-minute and fun as well as helpful. Like all Life Ed's programs, they're strengths-based, building on kids' existing skills, knowledge and optimism. A positive experience when starting secondary school leads to better academic outcomes, higher extracurricular participation and fewer behavioural, emotional and peer problems.

The resources are for teachers as well as parents and carers, so your child will be supported at home and at school.

### Use these tips for navigating and using the resources.

The site is designed to be like a smorgasbord. Use as many or as few resources as you like – choose those which are right for you and your child. Navigate them page by page, or pick and choose from the menus... Even download them in a format that suits your needs.

With practical videos, flyers, checklists and tips to get conversations started.... we created the resources with busy families in mind.

Make a start on the resources early in the later primary school years. You'll have a 'heads up' about the decisions you'll need to make and the conversations you might be having.

You or your child might have questions about how to do the following... just for a start!

### Ease any uncertainties around change.

Set aside time together to watch the videos on managing and influencing change, and being optimistic about what the changes may bring to life... presented by kids who have successfully navigated them.

Open a dialogue with your child. Talk about your own experiences. Ask your child what their questions and concerns are. Talking helps! Continue the conversation into Year 7.

### Choose the right school.

There's a wealth of practical information about the steps families need to take when selecting and starting a new school, exactly what questions to ask and who's available to ask.

Ask your primary school teacher which schools most students go to and where your child's friends will be going. Ask your child what they need and want from a secondary school, and if they have a school they prefer.

Check out potential school's websites. What do they have to offer? Will your child's learning needs be catered to? What's on the curriculum? Which extracurricular activities do they offer?

Reach out directly to the school asap with any questions. Do a tour of the school. Find out about uniforms, the enrolment process and practise traveling the route to the new school together.

### Manage changing school workloads.

You'll find discussion questions, tips and family interviews on the topic of time management. This includes ways to plan and organise homework, avoiding distractions like mobile phones, finding a consistently quiet place to study, and how you can help with homework.

All this, plus the importance of extracurricular activities, which ones are available to your child and ways of fitting everything into their busy day.

### Make new friends.

Feeling confident and positive about themselves helps children make good friendship choices. It also helps them say no to peer pressure and not want to hang out with people who make them feel bad about themselves. You can help your child make new friends with activities that build their confidence, resilience and communication skills. Why not work through the booklet in the resources called 'What makes me special?' together.

You'll also find everything you need to know in the event of bullying, including getting help from the school or system. With these Life Ed 'Guide to Thrive' resources, you can help your Year 6 child make the transition to secondary school smoothly.

*Life Ed is Australia's largest non-Government provider of preventive health education to school children. With the help of iconic mascot Healthy Harold the giraffe, Life Ed has been empowering children and young people to make safer and healthier choices for more than 40 years. We work in more than 4,000 schools and preschools across mainland Australia. On average, 700,000 school children participate in our program each year. Our 130 specially trained educators visit students in every state and territory across Australia via our 100 mobile classrooms (vans), pop-up classrooms, and via our virtual and online lessons.*



**AUTHOR Cheryl Strong**

Cheryl Strong is the National Marketing Manager, Education at Life Ed Australia. She is a senior marketing and communications specialist with extensive experience across multiple industries. She is passionate about working with not-for-profits that make a meaningful impact



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|  |                             |                     |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>10<sup>th</sup> December</b>  | <b>Worrying about Money</b> | <b>(Discussion)</b> |
| Do you stress about your finances? Many people worry about money, especially the lack of it. Richard, Celia and Anna chat about how this affects us and what can help.   |                             |                     |
| <b>17<sup>th</sup> December</b>  | <b>Naughty or Nice</b>      | <b>(Discussion)</b> |
| Do you struggle with giving gifts at Christmas time? Has it all just got a bit out of control? Join Richard, Celia and Noel as they talk about gift giving at Christmas...and importantly - have you been naughty or nice this year? |                             |                     |
| <b>24<sup>th</sup> December</b>  | <b>Story of the Carols</b>  | <b>(Discussion)</b> |
| Christmas is well known for its carols, but why do we actually sing Christmas Carols? Join Richard and Celia as they share some of their memories of Christmas.  |                             |                     |
| <b>31<sup>st</sup> December</b>  | <b>A Ladder and a Torch</b> | <b>(Interview)</b>  |
| There are many tragic stories about the abuse of alcohol, but how does it start, and how can it change? Hear Darryl's lifelong struggle with alcohol and how his life was transformed through hope.                                  |                             |                     |



Because parenting doesn't come with instructions, SchoolTV is a wellbeing resource implemented at our school to help support you in the challenges of modern-day parenting relating to youth mental health and wellbeing. Parenting is a learning journey and SchoolTV supports families by providing credible information from trusted sources with practical strategies to help alleviate some of the challenges being faced by young people today. Watch video interviews with leading wellbeing specialists and browse a library of resources. Each topic is accompanied by factsheets, podcasts, books, articles, apps and other videos. This award-winning resource helps families build relationships, foster connections, enable understanding and break down barriers to navigate a pathway towards better mental health and wellbeing for young people. It will assist you in starting those conversations on topics that can sometimes be awkward or difficult to tackle. Parents and caregivers are the greatest influence on a young person's life and SchoolTV focuses on empowering confident parenting. Explore SchoolTV today - <https://nhills.vic.schooltv.me>



## SRC Christmas Activities



SRC members provided fun activities at lunchtime on Thursday to celebrate nearing the end of the school year. Card games, board games, hand ball and bombardment were all enjoyed by the students. The best part of the day was the free zooper doopers they all got.

### Uniforms Available

Uniform sales will be available in January 2024

- Tues 23rd Jan
- Thurs 25th Jan
- Mon 29th Jan



## Premier's Reading Challenge

Congratulations to the students who took part in the Reading Challenge this year. The certificates only arrived this week so they were presented at the start of the day.



## Celebrating Mr Prenzler's BIG 50



So many birthday wishes were sent to Mr Prenzler on his birthday, his office was filled with balloons and streamers. The students sang, blew the party whistles and popped the party poppers at morning line up. Happy Birthday, may many



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Safe New Year from Nhill Lutheran School.

Lights can be seen at 728 Halls Rd Nhill