

## Upcoming Dates

### Chapel Dates *Fridays 9am*

Wed 11th Dec Graduation  
Service

@ St Paul's Lutheran Church  
Doors open 6.30pm

### December

Wed 11th: End of Year Graduation Service

Thurs 12th: Last Day of Term 4 (3.15pm)

Fri 13th: Staff PD Day

Sat 14th : Nhill Community Carols

**Term 1 2025 Wed 29th Jan: First day back to school 2025**

## Year 6 Graduation Dinner



At the Graduation Dinner Harper, Henry and Barrett shared their favourite memories of their time at NLS primary school. All the dinner guests enjoyed listening to their hopes and dreams for the future. Memories of the evening will include taking on the various staff in the game PIG.

## Birthdays



Happy birthday wishes are sent to the following students & staff this week.

Mr Prenzler 7th Dec

Jed 12th Dec

Roger 18th Dec

Sophie M 20th Dec

Mrs A 10th Jan

Mrs Lees 18th Jan

Lawson 19th Jan

Ellie 21st Jan

Maddy 25th Jan

## From The Principal

### Old and new

As the penultimate week of the school year comes to an end, we can't help but peek into the near future towards the school holidays and Christmas. I hope all families have an enjoyable and safe Christmas and New Year. This year has been a very special year in the history of Nhill Lutheran School, and it is appropriate we highlight two significant happenings.

Firstly, we give thanks to God for the provision of the new school building, the biggest building program in the school's history (although all the building programs have been significant). We are blessed to have modern, comfortable and purposefully designed facilities for our students to learn. There's still a bit to do (you may have noticed a large dirt patch at the front of the school), and hopefully you will see this area 'zhooshed up' in 2025.

Secondly, the amalgamation of the three Lutheran schools in Horsham, Dimboola and Nhill to become Wimmera Lutheran College is a significant occurrence. This partnership between the three schools will strengthen how we deliver a quality Christian education to children and families of the Wimmera. So at the end of 2024 we change from Nhill Lutheran School to Wimmera Lutheran College, Nhill. It will take a little time to become familiar with this change, and there will be further changes, such as logo and uniform, as the new entity takes shape.

These two happenings, the new school building and the amalgamation, has me thinking about 'old' and 'new'. We farewelled 'old' buildings and welcomed 'new' buildings, but the school has remained, teaching and learning still happens, so in some ways things haven't changed that much. With the amalgamation we say goodbye to the 'old' Nhill Lutheran School and hello to the 'new' Wimmera Lutheran College, but again the school remains very much the same, teaching and learning still happens.

God's presence and his promise to always be with us does not change. It is my hope that through old and new buildings, or old and new identities, students and people of our school community will experience the joy of knowing Jesus and the love he has for you, a love that does not change.

### School Captains

Congratulations to Clayton Hiscock and Oakley Moylan for being chosen as 2025 school captains. All Year 5 students are to be commended for their impressive speeches given two weeks ago, and the Year 5 students have wonderful leadership qualities. Clayton and Oakley will receive an official 'handover' from the 2024 captains at the end of year graduation service.



### End of Year Graduation

We look forward to seeing all students and their families at the End of Year Graduation service next Wednesday at the Lutheran Church. The doors will open at 6.30pm. Students are to wear their formal summer uniform. Not only will we farewell our Year 6 graduates, we will also present various awards to students.

### Reports

Semester Two student progress reports will be sent home next week.

### Staffing and classes for 2025

I am pleased to share that staffing positions have been filled for 2025, and we give thanks to God for this. We welcome Miss Katarina Drisch to the staff team for 2025. Katarina will be the 5/6 teacher for three days a week, and has taught for the last 14 years at Waverley Christian College. We look forward to welcoming Katarina.

At the end of this year we farewell Mrs Jeanie Clark and Mrs Nat Harding who is expecting her second child next year. We sincerely thank Jeanie and Nat for their contribution to Nhill Lutheran School, and wish them God's blessings for what lies ahead.

#### Staffing and classes for 2025:

Principal: Mr Damon Prenzler

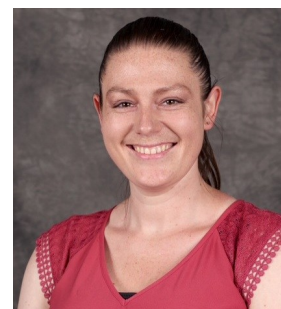
F/1 teacher: Miss Georgie Zikos

2 teacher: Miss Debra Schultz

3/4 teacher: Mrs Heidi Lees (plus Integration Aide)

5/6 teachers: Miss Katarina Drisch (3 days), Mrs Erin Alexander, Mr Damon Prenzler

Specialist teachers: Mrs Erin Alexander, Mr Damon Prenzler





Office Administrator: Mrs Lyn Fisher

Integration Aides: Miss Taela McLean and Ms Linda Rutherford

Wellbeing Officer: Mrs Karen Prenzler

Additionally, we will have the assistance of Mrs Jacqui North who is the Wimmera Lutheran College Assistant Head of Junior Schools – Curriculum and Pedagogy, who will support teachers with their teaching and learning, as well as being able to utilise the services and talents of other WLC staff.

Next Tuesday morning the students will have time in their 2025 classes with their 2025 teachers.

### End of Year events

Please note the following upcoming events:

Wednesday December 11: End of Year Graduation Service at the Lutheran Church. Doors open at 6.30pm. *All students are expected to attend. Please wear formal summer uniform.*

Thursday December 12: Last day of school. Finish at 3.15pm.

Saturday December 14: Nhill Community Christmas Carols. Our students will be singing at this event.

### Term Dates 2025

Term One: January 29 – April 4. (Labour Day March 10). *The front office will be open on January 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> for uniform purchases.*

Term Two: April 22 – July 2. (Easter Monday April 21, ANZAC Day April 25, King's Birthday June 9, Student Free Days July 3-4)

Term Three: July 22 – September 19. (Student Free Day July 21)

Term Four: October 6 – December 11. (Nhill Show October 16, Student Free Day December 12)

Every blessing for your week,

Damon Prenzler

### Year 3/4 Class

### Honourable Mention for Zoe



Emma Kealey, member for Lowan presented Zoe with an Honourable Mention certificate and gift for her entry in the 2024 Christmas Card design. Congratulations Zoe for your effort .



## Prayer of the Week

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



- Clayton & Harper and their family
- Mia and her family
- Harrison & McKenzie and their family
- Ruby & Freya and their family
- Nelson & Luka and their family
- Savannah and her family
- Tom & Zoe and their family

## Worship News

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

2nd Sun in Advent

Nhill 11am

Jeparit 9am

NhillLutheranParishOnline.com



## Chapel Offerings

At this week's Chapel was collected for the ALWS Gifts of Grace. Please consider sending an offering each Friday morning as the communities there rely on our help.

## Messages of hope

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

8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	What to Buy	(Richard Fox)
Are you one who tries to find the perfect gift at Christmas? Richard shares his struggles with the shopping list and explores the ultimate gift from God at Christmas.		
15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	How God Sees Christmas	(Pastor James Winderlich)
Listen as Pastor James Winderlich tells the story of one troubled family, and a stranger in the rain. Discover how they all experienced the true meaning of Christmas.		

## Devotional Thought

### A command of the Lord

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbour as yourself', you are doing right (James 2:8).

Read [James 2:1-13](#)

Do unto others as you would have them do to you! Many people, whether Christian or not, are using this as a rough guide. The original Christian version of this general rule of thumb has an important precursor: it points us to God, whom we are to love above all else. It is not our choice or ability to 'love our neighbour', but it is through the love of God and his sacrifice for us that we can do this.

I don't know about you, but for me, it is easy to remind myself and others of loving my neighbour when it's convenient for me. I also forget about it quickly when it causes inconvenience. Does that ever happen to you? When I'm already getting the mower out of the shed to help my elderly next-door neighbour keep their lawn looking good, it's a nice pat on the back to confirm that I'm showing love to my neighbour. When I sit in the privacy of my home and feel challenged by people who annoy or frustrate me, I forget about the 'loving my neighbour' bit quickly and can jump to judgement or even unloving action. But loving our neighbour includes not talking negatively about others in and outside our church. It includes praying for God's blessing and protection over those different from us, too.

Throughout the Epistle of James, he repeats the importance of putting our faith in action by caring for and being kind to those who annoy us. This could be those who are shabby-looking, those who are poor, those who drain us of all our energy because they are so needy, those who have different opinions to us – the words of James and his half-brother Jesus are clear:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbour as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on those two commandments (Matthew 22:37-40).

When we experience people talking about a 'command of the Lord' as rules that in their reading of Scripture must be kept at all costs, let us reflect on how these 'commands' are being presented in light of the command on which the whole Scriptures hang: loving God and loving our neighbour with all our heart. The Advent and Christmas seasons are such good times for putting our love of neighbour into action. Let us show the world that the love of Christ reaches beyond this time of celebration into every part of our lives. Let them see Jesus through us.

***Loving God, we could never love others without you loving us first. We could never care for or share with anyone if you were not caring for and sharing everything you have with us. You give us so many things in abundance, yet we grumble among ourselves. Give me a grateful heart and pour your love into my heart so I can love my neighbour as myself. Allow me to love those I find hard to love and help others to see Christ through me. In Jesus' name, Amen.***



## Year 6 Graduation Dinner Photos



*Class of*  
**2024**





# The BEST Way to Spend the Holidays

## *Building Wellbeing at Home This Summer*



The school holidays are a unique opportunity to cultivate deep family bonds, healthy habits, and a sense of freedom and self-expression in your family. And they're nearly here! Instead of rushing through endless activities or striving for perfection, the following five principles will help you create a balanced and joyful summer holiday experience for your family.

### 5 Ideas to Help Your Family Make the Most of School Holidays

#### 1. Prioritise Presence Over Perfection

The school holidays are a rare opportunity to spend uninterrupted time with your children. While it can be tempting to fill every day with perfect plans or carefully curated activities, the real benefit comes from your presence. Children don't remember the specific outings or events as much as they remember how their parents made them feel.

Set aside distractions (like phones, emails, or work) during your time together. Engage in open-ended conversations, delight in the simplicity of everyday moments with your child, and enjoy the shared experiences that only come when you're truly present.

#### 2. Cultivate Slow, Mindful Days

In our fast-paced world, we often forget the value of slowing down. The school holidays provide the perfect opportunity to create a rhythm that's more relaxed. There's no rush to get from one scheduled event to the next. Encourage your family to embrace the unstructured moments—whether it's reading a book slowly, taking a walk, or simply doing nothing at all.

Mindful moments aren't just about relaxation; they promote emotional resilience. When children see their parents embrace stillness, they learn to value time with themselves and discover that joy doesn't always come from being busy.

#### 3. Encourage Autonomy and Agency

Holidays are an ideal time for children to explore their independence. Instead of micromanaging every detail of the day, let your children take the lead on certain activities. Allow them to make decisions about what to do, what to eat, or where to go. This sense of autonomy fosters confidence and helps build important life skills. Trust your children's judgement and allow them to make their own decisions—this builds self-esteem and Resilience.

#### 4. Build Routines That Foster Stability

While the holidays offer a break from the structure of school, children thrive on routine. Rather than having completely open-ended days, create a loose structure to your time. Regular meals, consistent bedtime routines, and predictable pockets of activity can help children feel safe, secure, and emotionally balanced. Routines don't have to be rigid, but the repetition of positive habits—whether it's morning walks, family time, or even quiet moments—helps ground everyone during a time of potential upheaval.

#### 5. Foster Play and Creativity Over Achievement

The holidays should be a time to step back from the need to perform and instead embrace the freedom to play and create without any external pressure. Encourage your children to explore new forms of creative expression: drawing, building, writing, or just daydreaming. Let them roam freely in their imagination. This unstructured creative time not only boosts their emotional health, but it also develops their problem-solving abilities, enhances their adaptability, and helps them learn through trial and error in a low-stakes environment.

## The Wellbeing Effect of Balanced Holidays

If you're the kind of family that pushes for progress, achievement, and success, this is particularly important for you.

Know that the best "holiday" is not based upon the number of activities you can fit in or the milestones you can tick off. It's about creating space for growth, connection, and rest. If you must do *something* academically oriented, keep it simple by encouraging your kids to read. It's the one activity that is good for academic achievement without feeling like it's focused on academic achievement. These holidays, use your family time wisely—not by being everywhere and doing everything but by simply being together and giving everyone in the family the chance to pause, reflect, and enjoy the richness of life.



### **AUTHOR** Dr Justin Coulson

Dr Justin Coulson is a dad to 6 daughters and grandfather to 1 granddaughter. He is the parenting expert and co-host of Channel Nine's Parental Guidance, and he and his wife host Australia's #1 podcast for parents and family: The Happy Families Podcast. He has written 9 books about families and parenting. For further details visit [happyfamilies.com.au](http://happyfamilies.com.au).

## Term Dates for 2025



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Term Two: April 22 – July 2. (Easter Monday April 21, ANZAC Day April 25)

(King's Birthday June 9, Student Free Days July 3-4)

Term Three: July 22 – September 19. (Student Free Day July 21)

Term Four: October 6 – December 11. (Nhill Show October 16)

(Student Free Day December 12)

NOTE: Uniforms available to purchase at the school on the Friday 24th January & Tuesday 28th January.





## 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)

We had a fun 'Christmas themed' morning out in Get 'em Going today!

The children had the chance to make their own Christmas star to take home. Decorating it with glitter and sequins.

During our mat time the children had lots of fun using jingle bells, keeping to the beat whilst listening to some Christmas songs. We have also been learning some counting songs and practising our actions. It great to see so many children forming strong friendships with their peers, learning everyone's names and joining in for our group activities and songs.

We finished the morning off by reading the Christmas story; when Jesus was born. We pointed out the star that the wise man followed to find Jesus, and reminded the children they can remember about this story when they look at the star on their own Christmas tree at home.





## Animal Care Over Holidays



It is that time of the year again, when our pets will need some care over the holidays.....

Peaches the lizard - the enclosure could be taken home.

The fish - the tank could be taken home.

The frogs - the enclosure could be taken home.



If you are willing to help for the holidays would be appreciated, please contact the office to make arrangements.

Thank you for considering helping the school with their care.



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>



add some christmas  
**Jingle**

## Sensitive Santa

**for families with special needs**

**Tuesday, 10th December, 2024 from 5.45pm**

**Quiet low key setting  
Photo's available from \$6  
No waiting in queues  
Pre-booked 5 minute time slots**

**Bookings essential  
Phone 03 5382 0912  
[manager@horshamplaza.com.au](mailto:manager@horshamplaza.com.au)**



## Year 5/6 Class Christmas Market



### Christmas Market Thankyous

It's taken nearly a term to prepare, but yesterday it was finally time for the 5/6 Christmas Market! And, wasn't it a great event?

Thank you to so many people for your help: parents supporting with recipes, ingredients, materials and an iron; a grandparent working with a student on gingerbread; and the NLS staff, especially Miss McLean and Ms Rutherford for supervising production in the kitchen.

I was delighted to see the stalls finally set up with such a good variety of products that the students were proud of making, and the way the students manned their stalls. I think they all reported that they had over \$100 in their cash at the end - making \$600 overall. They will have to wait until Maths time next Wednesday before we can do the accounting for that money to see how much of it is profit to donate to their chosen charities.

A final thankyou to parents, for sending money for their children to have to spend at the Market, and for those parents who were able to come, to be there, supporting the 5/6 students and adding to the community atmosphere.

Best wishes for Christmas, Jeanie Clark






























































































































































































































































































































































































































































































Year 5/6 Class  
Celebrating The Last  
Day Together at NLS

# Do you suffer from asthma or hay fever?

## Grass pollen season is here



**Thunderstorm Asthma can be life-threatening.**  
Know the risks. Get prepared. Stay safe.



See your GP  
about an asthma  
action plan or  
hay fever  
treatment plan



Avoid  
thunderstorms –  
go indoors  
before and during  
thunderstorms.



For forecasts &  
alerts, get the  
**VicEmergency**  
app



Always carry  
your medication  
in grass pollen  
season



Learn  
asthma  
first aid



Grampians  
Health  
Grampians Public  
Health Unit

Grass pollen season brings an increase in asthma and hay fever. It also brings the chance of thunderstorm asthma. Thunderstorm asthma is thought to be triggered by a unique combination of high amounts of grass pollen in the air and a certain type of thunderstorm. For people who have asthma or hay fever this can trigger severe asthma symptoms.

If you have current, past or undiagnosed asthma or seasonal hay fever you are at risk of thunderstorm asthma. Even if you don't think you have asthma or hay fever, don't ignore symptoms like wheezing or shortness of breath. Thunderstorm asthma can be sudden, serious and even life threatening.

Know the risks. Get prepared. Stay safe.

Learn more at <https://www.bhs.org.au/services-and-clinics/grampians-public-health-unit/thunderstorm-asthma/>