

MIRBOO NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO. 16 - 18th September 2025

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Upcoming Events

19th September:

Last day of Term 3
Special assembly at 8:50am
Footy Colours Day
Jump Rope for Heart - Jump off
Hot Dog day
No canteen
Teachers vs Gr 6 AFL match
@ 1:30pm
Early dismissal 2:00pm

6th October: First day of term 4

8th October: T20 Cricket Blast

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Principal's Report

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As a terrific term of learning through our most miserable months ends, I'm very excited to see what is planned in the last term come into action, especially in terms of student learning and engagement. For staff, our learning will be enhanced as well, with education leader Brendan Lee, working with our school on the 13th and 14th of November and into 2026. This includes a whole school student free day on the 14th of November where we will be looking more closely at effective explicit instruction, our current practice and the implications it has for our Literacy and Maths sessions going forward. We are very fortunate to have Brendan work with us and now look forward to his visit.

Congratulations to all our budding athletes who competed at Casey last week and a big shoutout to new South Gippsland long jump record holder Darcy Evans. Fantastic efforts by you all and good luck at the All-Gippsland Regional Level to those of you that got though.

Not as exciting, however, compliance wise, a lot has happened this term. Thank you to those families who responded to the Child Safety documents and have also completed the Parent Opinion Survey (which has two days to go, so if you get a chance, please take 20 minutes to complete it through the compass link emailed out to all families).

There will be some **school wide changes** as a result, that everyone will need to adhere to from the beginning of Term

Although extremely successful with our Child Safety Audit and OHS audit we have been given constructive feedback, which was also raised by some parents. The only two issues, which in fact arose in both audits, related to 'induction to our site' and 'access to it.' Both of which have clear guidelines in our Child Safety Policies and OHS policies that as a school we need to do better with adhering too. As I result, I will need to ensure changes with access to the school site are adapted from the beginning of Term 4. These will take place day 1 and will be followed school wide.

From the start of Term 4 all visitors to our school site from 8.20 to 3.20 will need to sign in at the office, as this is during the times we as teachers are responsible for supervision. Children will need to be dropped off at gates and only invited guests, volunteers or staff will be permitted on site.

All parents and visitors will need an appointment booked through compass/the office to meet with a staff member and all volunteers will need to complete our site induction before working with grades or in the school (which has already been happening). The only times when this won't

be applicable is when parents and or visitors are <u>invited</u> on site for a special activity (ie. sports day) and are under direct supervision during this time. Two set times that will be open for invitation to attend on site will be our assemblies, on a Monday Morning or Friday afternoon. Other times may be special morning teas, celebrations, or events where more supervision is planned.

No parents/guardians will be able to walk through corridors or the school site without prior consent. Staff will be at the allocated gates to welcome students onsite in the morning with late comers having to report to the office. This will be a big change for our school but one that I'll need everyone's support with. We will have some parents of children who will be able to walk their children to the Wellbeing Hub in the mornings, but this will be pre-organised due to care plans already in place to help with transition. Parents/guardians will no longer be able to walk their children straight to the classrooms.

We do have an issue that requires further consultation, a common walk space with the residents of Castle Street, who have a memorandum of understanding from the forced closure of the northern end of their street when our administration building was built. This for the time being will mean parents/visitors can still access the playground and oval areas at the end of the school day, but we ask that you don't come past the netball courts or basketball court area unless invited.

I'm sure we will have some challenges with the implementation of these new changes next term, and we will endeavour to make suitable adjustments as we learn how best to implement our volunteer sign in and parent appointments. Please call me at the office if you have any questions or concerns.

Theircare won't change, as drop off and pick up are outside our hours of school supervision.

Major works are occurring around the school site in the holidays so please ensure any children are supervised if they use our site over the break.

School finishes at 2pm tomorrow after what promises to be a great footy day. You are invited to our morning assembly at 9am and teachers vs students footy match at 1.30.

Have a great holiday period and see everyone starting back on Monday the $6^{\rm th}$ of October.

Kind regards,

Matthew Snell

Principal



Term 4, 2025 - CHANGES to MNPS

Please refer to the principal's report, (page 1 of newsletter) for explanation of why we are adhering to the following changes.

- ⇒ All students are to be dropped off/picked up at the school gates before and after school.
- ⇒ No parents/guardians are to walk onto school grounds between the hours of 8.20am and 3.20pm unless an arrangement has been made with MNPS staff.
- ⇒ Students with established transition/care plans can be walked to the Wellbeing HUB by their parents, however this will be organised and discussed with staff as part of their transition care plan.
- ⇒ All parents/guardians will need to make an appointment to see their classroom teacher or leadership, through compass email / phone-call / front office.
- ⇒ All volunteers and visitors will have to sign in at the office and will have to participate in an Induction before being on school grounds.
- ⇒ Due to the gym being a community space, the Playground/ Oval / Gym will be accessible to parents at the end of the school day (3.05pm).
- ⇒ Parents are welcome onsite for Monday morning assembly and Friday afternoon assembly, however, please do not visit the classrooms or buildings in this time.
- ⇒ Parents are also welcome onsite when they have been invited for special events or VIP days. Due to extra supervision, you will not be required to be signed in on these days.
- ⇒ Extra Staff will be at each gate to welcome students into school grounds while we all get used to this process.

We are aware these changes will have teething problems. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the school.

These changes have been put into place to meet the Child Safety Policy and OHS Policy.

Thank you for your understanding,

MNPS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Term 3:

19th September:

Last day of Term 3

Special assembly at 8:50am

Footy Colours Day

Jump Rope for Heart - Jump off

Hot Dog day

No canteen

Teachers vs Gr 6 AFL match @ 1:30pm

Early dismissal 2:00pm

Term 4

6th October:

First day of term 4

8th October:

T20 Cricket Blast

15th October:

Regional Athletics

School Council meeting

17th October:

Japanese Drumming Workshop Gr 3/4

Monash Teddy Hospital Incursion Gr P-2

20th - 22nd October:

Grade 3/4 Coonawarra Camp

24th October:

2026 Prep Transition 11:30-12:30

3rd November:

Curriculum Day

Student Free day

4th November:

Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Student free day

7th November:

2026 Prep Transition 9:00-11:30

14th November:

Staff professional development day

Student free day

19th November:

School Council meeting

21st November:

2026 Prep Transition 9:00-12:30

25th - 27th November:

Grade 6 Wilson's Prom Camp

27th - 28th November:

Grade 2 Inverloch Camp

9th December:

Statewide Transition day

2026 Prep Transition 9:00-12:30

10th December:

Prep Zoo Excursion

Grade 1 Aquarium Excursion

17th December:

Grade 6 Graduation

18th December:

Final day of Term 4

19th December:

Student Free day

WORKING TOGETHER AWARDS

Presented 5th September



Wyatt, Elky, Adaline, Blake

WORKING TOGETHER AWARDS

Presented 12th September



Levi, Liam, Arlow, Ollie, Ava, Ivy, Charlotte, Penny, Isabella, Ollie, Amber-Lee

Jump Rope for Heart update

Thank you to ALL the students who got involved with Jump Rope for Heart!



A huge thank you for the effort skipping and fundraising for the Jump Rope for Heart program. As of today, together we have raised an incredible **\$3628** and this money will all go towards vital heart research and education programs. We still have until Friday to raise money!

We've loved seeing so many smiling faces skipping in the yard and in sports lessons. Our Jump Off Day is THIS FRIDAY straight after our assembly. This will be a celebration of our skipping achievements.

Here's our school leaderboard, congratulations to our top fundraisers! Keep up the skipping and thanks again for the hard work!

Regan from JCB - \$530.24 Charlotte from JKW - \$416.64 Maisie from JCB - \$355.81 Oscar from JCB - \$300.47

DIVISION ATHLETICS

Congratulations to the students who competed at Casey Fields last Thursday. We have a lot of students who now will go on to Regionals early next term. All students did a brilliant job today. Thanks to Ms Reynolds, Emma and Ebony for helping today and the parents who came and supported too. Big congrats to Darcy who broke the 9/10 boys long jump record!!





















Special Person's Morning

Monday the 8th of September, the junior school hosted some special visitors in honour of Father's Day. We had visits from some Dads, Pas, Uncles, Nans and many others. We had a great morning performing at assembly and playing some games and doing activities back in the classroom.























THANK YOU BUNNINGS MORWELL



A huge thank you to Barb from Bunnings in Morwell for the generous donation of these beautiful plants to our school library! They have made the space brighter and created a more welcoming environment, making it a much nicer place to browse, study, and read in. We are truly grateful for your consideration and support. Your kindness has had a profound impact on our library community, and we appreciate the thought and care that went into your donation.











NETBALL SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS



A big congratulations to our Girls Netball team who competed in the School Championship's Final on Tuesday 9th September in Melbourne. The team won 4 games, lost 2 and unfortunately missed out on making the finals by percentage. We are so proud of you all. A big thank you to the parents who came and supported today! Well done girls, you were all amazing!

School Based Traineeship at MNPS

Are you leaving year 12?

Are you unsure what to do next?

Would you like to work in schools and get paid to study at the same time?

Or just chasing some employment for the 2026 year in a primary school setting?

Interested students could be employed as an education support staff member (ES) in a government school while they study to get real hands-on experience.

To know more please register your interest with us at the school.

Chaplaincy Morning Tea

Page 12 - The Mirboo North Times, Wednesday, 17th September 2025

Wellbeing begins with a Listening Heart

Over morning tea at Co-space last week a large group of people gathered to hear about Mirboo North Schools Chaplaincy. As Rachel O'Connor and Kym Tutty, the Co-Chairs of this organisation outlined, it was an opportunity to say thank you to all of their donors and supporters, as well as historical statements are large as all things. Chaplaincy, including

bringing people up to date on all things Chaplaincy, including some future projects.

Mirboo North Schools Chaplaincy Inc is the organisation that supports the well-being of our young folk and the school community through financially supporting a Chaplain working at both the Primary and Secondary schools in Mirboo North. Norm da Silva, the current chaplain of more than 20 years standing, also spoke during the morning tea.

What is a Chaplain and how does the role support Wellbeing in the Schools?

in our Schools?

Norm explains this through the Chaplaincy group's motto -Wellbeing begins with a Listening Heart. Those whose families have experienced Chaplaincy support already know how much value comes from the conversations that Norm has, large and small, with all members of the school community

For those who don't, Norm explains that a lot of what he does comes from journeying alongside everyone in the school community, but particularly the kids. He spends time doing what interests them, he gets joy from being in the moment with them, whether it is throwing frisbees or playing carpet bowls. He is one of them. And they know it.

A quote from one school child in the '20 years of Chaplaincy' booklet notes: :

I call it pastoral capital", explains Norm. "Over time we develop friendships and mutual trust. It allows for important conversations to evolve over time. I explain to the kids that I am not going to fix any problems, but in listening, deeply listening, it allows them to tell their stories or share their concerns".

Norm added that this allows a person, of whatever age, to start the process of working things out. Once spoken, they can generally think of things they can do or change to handle that

If you look at the '20 years of Chaplaincy' booklet, you will see a number of heartfelt statements by children from the schools, including the following: "I don't want to ever leave this area coz I like talking to Norm so much. him about things I can't talk to my friends about.'

"Norm is a trusted adult within the school community and he

provides a conduit to a range of more formal health and wellbeing services that are provided in the Schools," adds Rachel. "He is a key member of the Welfare Team in each Rachel. school."

How can you get involved?
Your children will know who Norm is and how to find him if they want to talk. But for the rest of us, how can we get involved? There are a few different ways:

• There is a volunteer bank that you can sign up for: you provide your details and how you might be able to help out with either a Chaplaincy fundraising event or a useful skill. Email mnschaplaincy@gmail.com to sign up.

There is also a Chaplaincy and Well-being Fund at the Community Foundation that can give you a tax deductible receipt for a donation. These donations support the employment of the Chaplain as well as other well-being projects at the

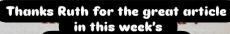
school. Find out more by dropping into Co-Space or emailing us on info@mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au

Or just call in to the monthly Mirboo North Market and buy a sausage at the BBQ shelter as the Chaplainey group run a sausage sizzle every second month as a fundraiser. All support is greatly appreciated is greatly appreciated.

Mirboo North & District Community Foundation



Past and present members of Chaplaincy: Paula Calafiore, Jenny Edney, Lizzie Hall and Jenny Dyke









Melissa O'Neill (Assistant Principal at MN Secondary College), Rachel O'Connor Co-Chair of Chaplaincy, Norm da Silva, Chaplain, Kym Tutty, Co -Chair of Chaplaincy group and Ruth Rogan.

A reminder that as a SunSmart school, broad brimmed hats are compulsory for outdoor play in Term 1 and 4.

Navy hats can be brought from the office for \$8 each (available in small, medium & large)





Keep your eyes out in the following MN spaces, as you may find Native Bee Hotels made by our students.

Helping pollination and our local environment.

Lyrebird Walk (6's) MN Railtrail (5's)

Baths Road Reserve (3/4's)

MNPS (P-2)

If you find one, please don't touch, but definitely have a closer look as you may eventually see:

eggs, pollen, a female (solitary) bee, or... maybe even other insects sharing the space.



Landcare Australia as their grant helped pay for the incursion with our Bee Man; Clancy Lester. Clancy for coming to MN! David Tree for volunteering his time, knowledge, enthusiasm and excellent driving skills, &...

MNPS students for their enthusiasm and efforts!

WELLBEIN 18th September 2025

Happy Holidays

Please find the following phone numbers and websites for agencies who will be able to support you over the holidays if required.

Orange Door:

2 Long St, Leongatha VIC 3953

Phone: 1800 319 354

Sometimes, families can experience difficult times and are worried about the wellbeing and development of their children and need some help and support.

Anglicare:

188-190 Commercial Road, Morwell VIC 3840, Australia 03 5135 9555

We provide a diverse range of programs, places and partnerships to meet and support local needs. https://www.anglicarevic.org.au/contactus/locations/?lc_region=gippsland

Remember to Breathe these holidays...

Please find the following beathing technique to help calm our busy brains. Making the bee noise tricks our brain into feeling safe when we are anxious or nervous.

BUMBLEBEE BREATH

Lightly place a finger in each ear. Take a deep breath in through your nose, and hum softly like a bee as you breathe out.



Uniforms and Food Parcels



Contact Sarah or Kate in the office to organise uniforms for Term 4! All we need is your child's uniform size!

Also, if needed, feel free to contact Sarah/Norm to organise a Food Parcel for your child to take home.



Due to the new requirements in our Child Safe Policies, and OHS for MNPS staff, we are making changes to parents and guardians being onsite MNPS school grounds.

(Please refer to Matt's section of the newsletter)

For those students who have adapted plans for transition into school, the HUB will be open with lego, colouring, sensory room and sand trays. On the Tuesdays and Thursdays (breakfast club) Sarah and Norm's office will be open to assist students if they need a calmer space.

Please touch base with Sarah, Matt or your classroom teacher if you feel you will need to walk your child into the hub on the first few days of Term 4 to help with the changes. Or, if your child may need a teacher / ES, to support them walking to the Hub, from the car or gate.







Mirboo North PS TheirCare

TERM 3

NEWSLETTER <19 September 2025

Week 8 - Wellbeing and mindfulness

During the week we explored concepts of appreciation, expression, calm play and thoughtfulness. Some of our activities included compliment writing, creating postcards, kite flying, chalk drawing, bubble play and mindful movement games

We Celebrated R U Ok? Day

Our R U OK? Day party was filled with laughter, vibrant energy, and a wonderful sense of belonging. Everyone came together to enjoy games, create some messy slime, and start some meaningful conversations. R U OK? Day is a powerful reminder to check in on one another and support mental wellbeing by simply asking, "Are you OK?" because a conversation can change a life.

Our Spring Holiday Program is in full swing! Dive into the enchanting world of



Secret Farden

DON'T MISS OUT! **Book Now at** Theircare.com.au



Week 9 - Build it!

This week has been all about engineering, construction and following all sorts of inventive initiatives. They've had a go at forming card houses and structures, showing amazing patience and persistence, engineered Lego spinners and Beyblades, tested their strength and stability in forming human pyramids, built 3D shapes from play dough and matchsticks, crafted bubble wands, catapults and windmill pulleys. They got inventive in creating potions and pretend toxic tonics and on our warmer days have enjoyed outdoor ball sports & playground play 🗘



TC Tucker Returns!

This October, World Food Day will kick off the return of our much-loved TC Tucker program! Celebrating culture, connection, and community through food.

The TC Tucker program gives children the chance to cook, taste, and share delicious dishes, sparking curiosity and conversations about exciting recipes from our communities.

CONTACT SERVICE:



0448 345 362

mirboonorth@theircare.com.au







www.theircare.com.au







TC HEAD OFFICE:



info@theircare.com.au



Science Extravaganza



U3A Mirboo North & District is offering a one- time School Holiday event for Grandparents and Grandchildren to share in some fun Science. Do you want to know if an egg is safe to eat? Can a balloon withstand a candle flame? How do you make honeycomb? Watch water rise like magic. These and other things will be at Mirboo Scout Hall on Tuesday 23rd September from 1.00pm to 3.00pm.

Our tutor will be Andrew Corcoran who has a Science Degree from Monash. The event is intended to help the generations have fun together. The event is suitable for children up to 12 years of age. While Andrew has a Working with Children permit we are unable to accept unaccompanied children. If you are interested or have any questions please contact Pamela Smith on 0438898510 or email <u>president@u3amnd.org.au</u>





Free school holiday activities for the entire family

SEP/OCT 2025

Family Movie Moe Library

Ages 8 to 18.

Ages 6 to 10.

9.30am to 11.30am

GameFest

Morwell Library 10am to 1pm

Traralgon Library 1pm to 4pm

KUBO Coding

Traralgon Library

11am to 12noon 1.30pm to 2.30pm

KUBO Coding

11am to 12noon 1.30pm to 2.30pm Ages 3 to 5.

Morwell Library

Giant Games and Scavenger Hunt

all libraries

during opening hours Sat 20 Sep to Sat 4 O



Lego Bricks and Mega Blocks

Churchill Library

Sat 20 Sep to Thu 25 Sep during opening hours

Morwell Library

29 Sep to Fri 3 Oct during opening hours

Wiggle & Jiggle **Garden Critters!**

Traralgon Library 9.30am to 10am

Churchill Library

9.30am to 10am Morwell Library 9.30am to 10am Moe Library 9.30am to 10am









Book online or at your local library

Free school holiday activities for the entire family

SEP/OCT 2025

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Traralgon Library

11am to 2pm Craft, treat bags, dress-ups and a birthday cake!

Storytime with Caz Goodwin and Daisy the Koala

Traralgon Library

11.15am and 12.15pm

Bugs and Blooms Drawing Fun

Traralgon Library

10am to 11am 11.30am to 12.30pm

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

Moe Library 10am to 11am



Buzzy Bee Day!

Moe Library 10.30am to 2pm



- Latrobe Valley Beekeeper's Association presentation and education hive
- Bee craftPot and paint and more!

Advanced Bugs and Bloom Drawing Workshop

Traralgon Library 2pm to 3pm

Morwell Library 1pm to 2pm

Family Trivia

Morwell Library



2pm to 4pm













