



2026 TERM 1 EDITION 2

NEWSLETTER

Wednesday 11th February 2026



IMPORTANT DATES

Wed 4, 11,
18, 25 Feb

No Preps at School

Thurs 12th
Feb

Meet the Teacher
afternoon

Mon 9th
Mar

LABOUR Day - Public
Holiday

11th, 12th,
13th Mar

Year 3 & Year 5 NAPLAN

Tues 24th
Mar

Year 5 & Year 6
Life Saving Day

Thurs 2nd
April

End of Term - 2:30 pm
dismissal

Principal's Message

A wonderful start to the school year.



The new school year is off to a fantastic start at Hastings Primary School! It has been wonderful to see our students arriving each day with enthusiasm, ready to learn, grow, and support one another. The positive energy around the school is truly inspiring, and I am so proud of the way our students have settled into their new routines.

Last week, we had the privilege of inducting our new student leaders at our first assembly of the year.

It was a proud moment as they received their badges and pledged to serve our school community with dedication and kindness.

We look forward to seeing them take on their roles with confidence and leadership throughout the year.

A reminder that our school assemblies are held every second Friday, and we warmly invite all families to attend. These gatherings are a wonderful opportunity to celebrate student achievements, share important updates, and come together as a school community. We hope to see many of you there!

Tu Toa, Kia Kaha

Stand Strong, Have Strength

Mrs. Simone Mc Donald Principal



Term One Emergency Evacuation Drill - Notification

In the previous newsletter our Bushfire season response was included to let you know how we respond in the event of a bushfire.

Hastings Primary School will conduct an Emergency Evacuation Drill to our Shelter-in-Place (SIP) location this term. Below is some information so that you can discuss with your child to help prepare them for the upcoming drill.

This drill will simulate a Watch and Act alert issued by emergency services due to ember drift.

Practicing our emergency procedures ensures that we are well-prepared to respond safely in the event of a real emergency.

Students are reminded to:

- ✔ Listen carefully to staff instructions
- ✔ Move quickly and calmly to the designated SIP location
- ✔ Remain quiet and follow all safety procedures

Thank you for your cooperation in making our school a safe place for everyone.

Mrs. Simone McDonald Principal

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund applications for 2026

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum. CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school excursions, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or support an out of home care student you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid directly to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. The annual CSEF amount per student is \$400 for all school students.

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- new student enrolments: your child has started or changed schools this year.
- changed family circumstances: such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	★ 28	★ 29	30	31

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

TERM ONE



2026

STUDENT FREE DAYS

- School Holidays
- Public Holidays
- Curriculum Days

IMPORTANT DATES

- Year 1-6 First Day of 2025
- Prep Family Interviews - 1 hour
- Preps First Day of 2025
- No Preps at School
- Year 3 and 5 NAPLAN
- End of Term - 2:30PM dismissal

At Hastings Primary School we focus on student wellbeing, social and academic growth each and every day.



Hastings Primary School

Caring, Respecting, Learning

FROM THE AP'S DESK



Self-Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD).

At Hastings Primary School, this year we are using the instructional approach of SRSD to teach writing. It combines explicit teaching of writing strategies with self-regulation skills, helping students become more confident and independent writers.

The main goal of SRSD is to support students to independently plan, draft, revise, and edit their writing. This approach emphasises that writing is a skill that can be learned and improved through practice, rather than a talent that some people are simply born with. Through SRSD, students learn strategies to overcome challenges and improve their writing. It also helps develop positive attitudes towards writing and builds self-confidence.

Practising these skills at home is very important because learning happens both in and outside of school. By using SRSD strategies at home, your child can continue to strengthen their writing skills and grow as a confident, independent writer.

How can you support your child?

1. Encourage Regular Writing
2. Make writing a regular activity at home. This could include keeping a journal, writing stories, or sending emails to family members.
3. Practise SRSD Strategies
4. Remind your child about the strategies they have learned at school. Talk with them about planning their ideas, organising their thoughts, and revising their work.
5. Provide Positive Feedback
6. Read their writing and offer constructive feedback. Focus on their ideas and message rather than handwriting, spelling, punctuation, or capitalisation. Writing is about communicating meaning. Praise strengths and gently discuss ways to improve.
7. Model Good Writing Practices
8. Show your child how you use writing in everyday life, such as writing emails, lists, or notes. Talk about how you plan, organise, and check your work.
9. Praise Their Effort
10. Recognise your child's effort and progress, no matter how small. Praising effort rather than ability helps motivate students to keep improving.
11. Discuss Real-Life Applications
12. Help your child see how writing is useful in everyday life, such as writing to the local council, applying for opportunities, or expressing feelings in a letter.

As parents and guardians, you play a vital role in your child's education. Your encouragement and support can make a meaningful difference to their learning.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like more information about SRSD.

Thank you for your continued support.

Children's University



Children's University is happening again in 2026 for our Year 4-6 students and will officially launch soon. Congratulations to Landen, Blake and Benji who are the official 'C U' leaders this year.

About Children's University

Children's University fosters a lifelong learning mindset and supports educational aspirations from a young age, by encouraging and celebrating child-led learning beyond the curriculum and classroom.

How it works

Students opt into the program and engage in a broad range of fun, self-directed learning opportunities and through partner Learning Destinations. Members are issued a Passport to Learning and receive stamps for each activity. Once they collect a minimum of 30 hours, members are invited to attend a graduation ceremony to celebrate their achievements – just like a university student.

If your child began C U last year, the hours they ended on is the hours they start with this year!

C U club will run on Mondays with me where students can have their passports stamped and any questions answered. Going to the club gets 30 min in their passport too!

If you have any questions, please contact me.



Friends of Hastings Primary School (FOHPS)

Friends of Hastings PS (FOHPS) is looking for parents and carers to help out with our fun school events throughout the year – things like meal deals, raffles, fundraising activities and special days for the kids. You don't have to commit to every event. Even helping out once or twice makes a huge difference, and the more volunteers we have, the easier (and more fun!) it is for everyone.

If you'd like to meet other parents, support our school, and be part of a welcoming team, we'd love to have you on board.

Our first FOHPS meeting will be held this Friday at 9am in the staffroom. Come along, have a chat, a tea or coffee and see what it's all about. No experience needed, just a willingness to help when you can. Many hands make light work – hope to see you there!

Mrs Rebecca Legge
Assistant Principal





ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT

Michelle Aldridge

STEM:

Exploring, Creating and Problem Solving

In 2026, Mrs Legge and I will be teaching STEM. Our Prep to Year 2 students will dive into one topic from each STEM area each term. Whilst our Year 3-6 students will work through integrated topics all year long.

What Is STEM and Why Does It Matter?

You may have heard the term STEM, but what does it mean for your child? STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Rather than being taught in isolation, STEM brings these areas together through hands-on learning that builds problem-solving, critical thinking and creativity—skills children use at school and in everyday life.

The Four Areas of STEM

- Science** – Encourages curiosity, questioning and exploring how the world works.
- Technology** – Using tools to solve problems, from simple tools to digital technologies.
- Engineering** – Designing, building, testing and improving ideas and structures.
- Mathematics** – Measuring, analysing and finding patterns in the world around us.



Why STEM Is Important?

STEM learning helps children:

- develop strong thinking and problem-solving skills
- build resilience and a growth mindset
- become creative, confident learners
- prepare for a future shaped by technology and innovation

Exploring STEM at Home

- STEM doesn't require special equipment—just curiosity:
- Cooking and baking (measuring and observing changes)
- Building with blocks or LEGO (balance, design and problem-solving)
- Nature walks (sorting, observing and questioning)
- Paper airplanes (design, test, improve and try again)

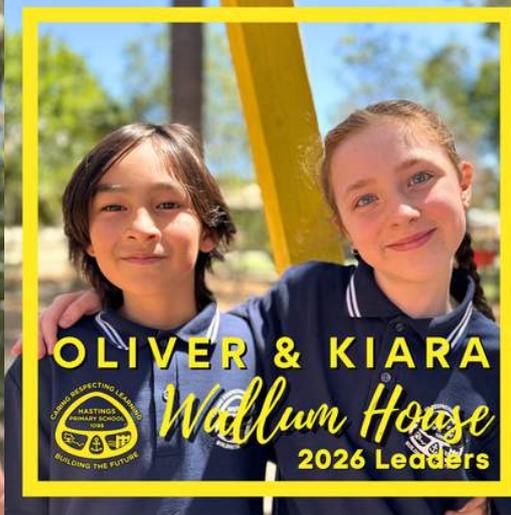


STEM learning happens every day—at school, at home and through play. Encouraging curiosity and conversation is one of the best ways to support your child's learning.

2026 Student Leaders



I am thrilled to introduce our 2026 Student Leadership Team! These students have shown outstanding responsibility, teamwork, and a commitment to making our school a positive place for everyone. Each of them spoke at our first assembly, and we have received a flood of compliments about how well they spoke. Congratulations to all our leaders – I can't wait to work with them and see the amazing ideas and initiatives they will bring to life this year!



At our second assembly, Friday 20th February, we will induct our 2026 Student Representative Council. These students have been elected by their classmates to represent them and express student voice.

Miss Michelle Aldridge

Michelle.Aldridge@education.vic.gov.au



STUDENTS of the WEEK



PA	Kitty Cadornio	Well done Kitty, on such a positive start to school!
1/2A	Cidney Villamil	Cidney, your efforts in the classroom have been very impressive. Your organisation and great work ethic are a great example for others. Way to go Cidney!
1/2A	Geizer Ohoy	Geizer, well done on a brave and positive start at Hastings Primary School. You have done an amazing job so far Geizer!
1/2B	Mayla Marcos	The Marvelous Mayla! You have started this year with a bang. Enthusiastically engaging in learning tasks as well as well as readily sharing all of your wonderful ideas with the class. I can't wait to see what you achieve this year!
3/4A	Deborah Juma	You have made a great start to the year Deb! I can see your confidence growing every day. Keep up the good work!
3/4A	Polly Hand	What a fabulous start to the year you have made Polly! You are showing independence and kindness to your friends! Keep up the great work!
4/5A	Jack Neale	Jack, it has been wonderful to see you improve your learning habits. Well done for completing learning tasks and contributing your ideas during class discussions. Keep up the great work!
4/5A	Leeroy Cousins	Leeroy, you are being recognised for coming up with great vocabulary during our daily reading review. Thank you for your willingness to help the teacher and your classmates. Keep it up!
5/6A	Linsay Sunguad	Linsay, congratulations on your positive start at Hastings Primary School. Your quiet manner and enthusiasm are clearly reflected in your work so far.
5/6A	Saxon Wyatt	Saxon, what a great start to the new school year! Your focus and participation have been awesome to see. Keep it up - you're doing a great job!

ASSEMBLY AWARDS

SPECIALIST SUPERSTARS



Dwayne Pyke, Linsay Sunquad, Jack Peart, Maci Smith, Charlie Dang & Spencer Gray

Congratulations to this weeks award recipients!
Caring, Respecting and Learning

HOUSE POINTS



150



148

243



127

