

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 27<sup>th</sup> - June 3<sup>rd</sup> National Reconciliation Week
- Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> June Lions Club Vision Screening
- Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> June Public Holiday
- Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> June School Council
- Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June Reports go home
- Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June Student Led Interviews
- Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> June Last day of Term 2, 2.30 finish
- Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> July Term 3 begins
- Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> July Regional Arts Victoria - "Captivating Culture" incursion
- Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> August Excursion to Warrnambool Art Gallery and Salt Restaurant Masterclass
- Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> September BioLab for Grades 5 & 6

## An interview with...

### Maria

What is your favourite book, movie, or TV show and why?  
Little Lunch. The movie and book because it is funny.

What is the funniest thing that has happened to you this year?  
Falling to the ground as I crossed the finishing line at Cross country!

If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?  
Noodles

What is the best thing you have learned how to do lately?  
Taekwondo. The axe kick!

What is your favourite game to play at recess?  
Soccer. I love playing goalie.

What is the best thing about our school?  
Going on excursions.

What makes someone a good friend? When they spend time with me even if I'm sad.

What do you like to do with your friends?  
I like talking with them.

If you could be any animal, which one would you be and why?  
Cheetah - they run really fast and are active.

If you had \$1,000 to spend on anything you wanted, what would you buy?  
LOLLIES

If you could make up a new holiday, what would it be called and how would you celebrate it?

Painting Day - everyone paints whatever they want, and we hang them on walls.



If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

Telekinesis - if I couldn't be bothered moving I'd make things come to me.

What makes you feel truly happy?  
When I win something, like a prize.

What is something you are proud of from this year?

My sports, especially Cross Country!

What is something you can do today that you couldn't do last year?

Soccer - I have learnt all of the rules.

What do you want to be when you grow up?  
A Border Security person - I would check for dangerous things and find criminals.

If you could visit any place in the world, where would you go?

Nepal - I have a friend who lives there.

If you could ask an older person one question about their life, what would it be?

What does it feel like to be a grandparent?

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Find us on Facebook

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# Junior Room

In Literacy we have been exploring *The Lorax*, a cautionary tale about protecting the environment and what happens when we destroy nature. Foundation students have been developing their writing fluency skills through partner reading and writing activities every day. All students have been working on their reading fluency, which is uploaded every Friday on Seesaw for parents to view and follow their child's progress.



## Seesaw

I speak for the trees

	regroup	
32	2 12	2 12
-15	<del>32</del>	<del>32</del>
?	-15	-15
		17

## Numeracy

In Numeracy, Group One have continued to focus on counting to 20, number formation, ordinal numbers and using ten frames to compare numbers and the count on strategy.

Group Two have been focusing on addition and subtraction fluency and subtraction with regrouping.



# AUSLAN



Auslan Education Services

### How It Works?

Each week students watch a video lesson, which are filmed by Deaf and Hard of Hearing people.

The focus lessons explicitly teach the signs and then students engage in fun, interactive activities.

This week students worked together to sign farm animals and describe them.





National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements, and to reflect on how each of us can contribute to reconciliation in Australia.

The 2026 theme, All In, is a powerful call for every Australian to commit wholeheartedly to reconciliation each and every day. It reminds us that reconciliation is not a spectator sport—real change requires action from all of us. It is not the responsibility of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples alone, who have carried this work for far too long. Reconciliation will not happen by itself, and it will not happen without collective commitment.

Recently, we were fortunate to welcome Reuben Smith, a Gunditjmara man, who worked with our students exploring the six seasons of Gunditjmara Country. These seasons are shaped by climate and the lifecycles of local wildlife, including eels, birds, bees and reptiles. Students shared their prior learning and received valuable feedback from Reuben, deepening their understanding of Country and seasonal change.

Reuben also introduced students to local language and dialects, and shared the sound and significance of the yidaki (didgeridoo). Outside, students created a circular seasonal calendar and participated in games to help reinforce their learning.

We were also delighted to have Bec, a Warlpiri woman, supporting the session and helping students make connections with the Aboriginal art they have been creating.

This learning will continue, with Miss Nat (Yorta Yorta) working alongside students to further explore and interpret one of the seasons, and Miss Grace (Yorta Yorta) supporting students in visual arts to complete and frame their work. These pieces will go on to inspire Bec in our next Aboriginal art installation.

Following these rich learning experiences and conversations, Miss Nat feels more confident to lead a revision of our school's Acknowledgement of Country. Our goal is to incorporate local language and artwork, and to proudly display this at the front of our school.

It's clear that at BWCS, we are truly All In for reconciliation.





As part of Reconciliation Week, students explored the story of Bunjil during their MARC lesson. Bunjil, also spelt Bundjil, is the creator deity and ancestral wedge-tailed eagle for many Aboriginal peoples across Victoria. Students learnt that Bunjil is a powerful culture hero who is believed to have created the land, rivers, animals and the laws of the people. Through storytelling and discussion, students discovered how these important cultural stories have been passed down through generations and continue to hold deep significance for First Nations peoples today. Bunjil is often recognised as the creator spirit who shaped people from the land or clay. Students explored how local landscapes, animals and cultural traditions are reflected in these stories, helping them to better appreciate the richness and diversity of Aboriginal cultures and histories.



On Wednesday 27 May 2026 at midday, millions of children, parents, teachers, and library lovers across Australia and beyond came together to read Luna Roo at the same time – celebrating the joy of reading, storytelling and connection. The story follows the spirited kangaroo Luna and her friends as they chase their football dreams across the outback, blending action, teamwork and fun to inspire young readers.



## MR SNOTBOTTOM

Our students were treated to a wildly entertaining performance by Mr Snotbottom, brought to us by Regional Arts Victoria. The live show was packed with gross-tastic gags, tasteless tunes and hilariously wrong routines that had everyone laughing from start to finish! Known as the “Prince of Putrid” and the “Willy Wonka of Weird,” Mr Snotbottom delighted students with his ooey, gooey, yucky humour and outrageous antics. Like a cross between Shrek and Mr Bean, he took students on a roller-coaster of ridiculousness filled with slimy songs, silly surprises and plenty of belly laughs. It was a fun and memorable experience that students (and staff!) thoroughly enjoyed.



BWCS 2026 READERS CUP TEAM

# READERS CUP CONTEST



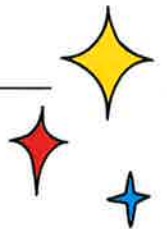
READERS CUP IS AN INTERSCHOOL READING COMPETITION WHERE A SMALL SELECTED TEAM OF STUDENTS WORK TOGETHER TO READ A SET OF BOOKS AND REPRESENT OUR SCHOOL. STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN BOTH A CREATIVE RESPONSE ACTIVITY AND A QUIZ COMPETITION BASED ON THE BOOKS THEY HAVE READ. THE PROGRAM ENCOURAGES TEAMWORK, CREATIVITY, COMPREHENSION SKILLS, AND A LOVE OF READING. READERS CUP IS ORGANISED THROUGH THE MARC PROGRAM( MISS LEE).

AS THERE ARE LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE, STUDENTS INTERESTED IN READERS CUP WILL NEED TO COMPLETE A SELECTION CHALLENGE.

STUDENTS WILL BE SELECTED BASED ON THEIR EFFORT, CREATIVITY, COMPREHENSION, AND ABILITY TO WORK CONFIDENTLY AS PART OF A TEAM.

**PLEASE NOTE NOT ALL STUDENTS INTERESTED WILL BE SELECTED**

**READERS CUP WILL TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER (TERM 4).** AS STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO READ SIX BOOKS THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM, WE WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN THE SELECTION PROCESS EARLY TO ALLOW STUDENTS ENOUGH TIME TO PREPARE AND READ THE BOOKS THOROUGHLY.

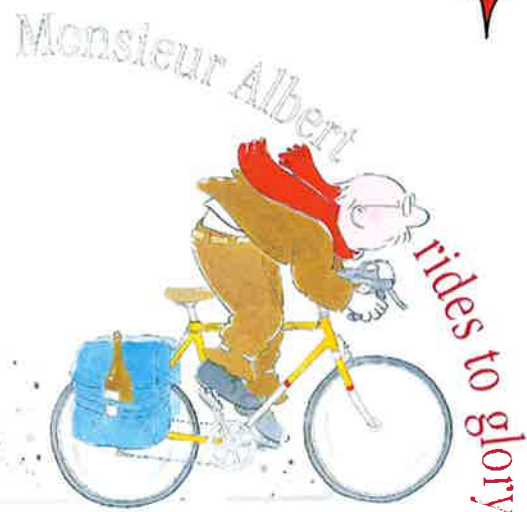


## STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

- GRADE 4-6
- READ THE BOOK "MONSIEUR ALBERT RIDES TO GLORY"
- PREPARE TO ANSWER A SERIES OF COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BOOK IN CLASS ON THURSDAY THE 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE
- COME UP WITH AN IDEA FOR A CREATIVE RESPONSE
- PITCH THEIR IDEA TO THE CLASS ON JUNE 4TH

## DUE DATE FOR COMPETITION

**THURSDAY,  
4TH JUNE 2026**



P3738 SMITH illustrations by BOB GRAHAM

## Branxholme Wallacedale Community School is a Child Safe school

The Child Safe Standards are a set of principles and requirements that guide organisations to create environments where children and young people are safe, respected, and protected from harm.

They outline how BWCS promotes child safety through strong leadership, clear policies, staff training, safe recruitment practices, and a culture that listens to and empowers children.

These standards are important because they help prevent abuse and neglect, ensure concerns are identified and addressed early, and create a culture of accountability.

By embedding child safety into everyday practice, we can better protect children's rights, build trust with families, and support the wellbeing and development of every child.

**Standard Two - Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.**

### **What does this mean?**

At Branxholme Wallacedale Community School, we are committed to meeting Child Safe Standard 2 by promoting a strong culture of child safety and wellbeing.

We publicly demonstrate our commitment to keeping children safe and ensure that child safety is embedded in all aspects of school life.

Our leadership, staff, volunteers, students and community work together to model and uphold child safe practices.

Governance structures support the implementation of our Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy, and our Code of Conduct clearly outlines expected behaviours and responsibilities for all staff and volunteers.

We actively manage risks to children and young people through prevention, identification and response strategies, and ensure all staff and volunteers understand their obligations regarding information sharing and record keeping.

## **ACTIVE KIDS ARE HEALTHY KIDS**



**Active kids are more focused at school.**



**We started at the Stalkers Bend Shop and practised walking safely to school.**





Thankyou to those people who have donated items recently. It's so nice to see people making use of these - the students get very excited when they see someone at one of the boxes! Please remember these items are there for anyone in the community to make use of. The book box is very full at the moment so if you're wanting something to read on these cooler days you may just find what you're looking for in here.

"Give what you can, Take what you need!"

Donations much appreciated.



Please get in touch if you would like to place an ad for your business or event in our newsletter.

	1/8 page	1/4 page	1/2 page	Full page
1 edition	\$5	\$10	\$15	\$30
5 editions	\$22	\$45	\$67	\$135
10 editions	\$42	\$85	\$127	\$255
15 editions	\$62	\$125	\$187	\$375
20 editions	\$75	\$150	\$300	\$450



**Happy Birthday Kristianna!**

# GEM Chats

## Empathy

### CREATING WELLBEING HABITS & CONNECTION

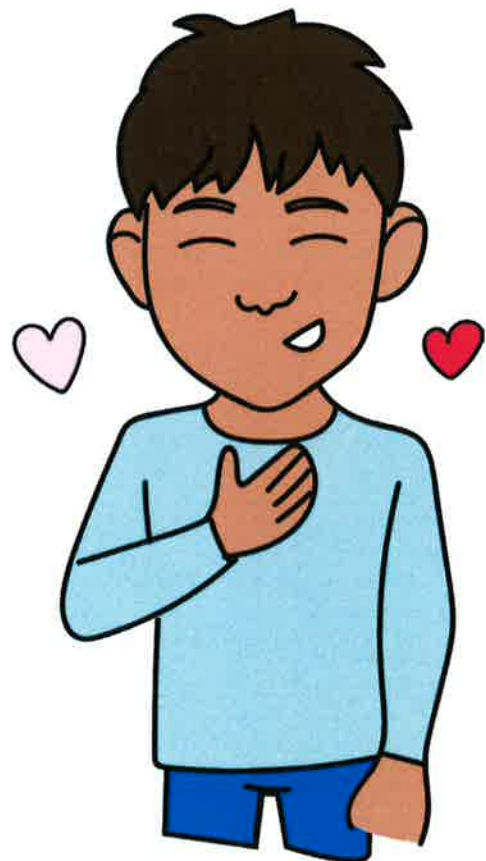
GEM Chats help families practice The Resilience Project's principles, offering a simple wellbeing check-in while **building stronger connections through daily conversations**.

### HOW TO USE GEM CHATS

**Make GEM Chats a part of your dinner routine to reflect, check in, and practice empathy.**

Try these prompts:

- ★ Thank each family member for something they've **done or said** today.
- ★ Give each family member a **compliment**.
- ★ Share a time when someone has done **something kind for you** this week. Describe how it made you feel.
- ★ Think about someone special in your life. **What makes them special**, and how will you let them know this week?
- ★ Who made you **feel cared** for this week? What actions did they take?



**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESILIENCE PROJECT, HEAD TO:**



Call Us! **1800 55 1800**

We're here to talk 24/7  
Every day and night.

**1800 55 1800**



kids  
help  
line

*We're here for you. Any time. Any reason  
Talking helps!*

*No problem is too big or too small.  
24 hours a day, 7 days a week.*

## Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land; the Gunditjmara people, who have cared for this area for over 65 000 years.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present. Kurtuk-Kurtuk, meaning sisters, is the traditional place name for Branxholme.

The Branxholme area is home to the Direk Gunditj clans of the Gunditjmara Nation.

We have beautiful plants, trees and animals.

There are gum trees, emus, kangaroos and red and yellow tailed cockatoos surrounding us every day.

We are especially proud of the rare native plant called the dianella, which grows around Kurtuk-Kurtuk.

The land we are on now, the land where we live, learn, breathe, eat, and sleep:

Always Was, Always Will Be! Aboriginal land!

Written by the students of Branxholme Wallacedale Community School