

# Millwarra Primary School's NEWSLETTER

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Compass: <https://millwarraps-vic.compass.education/>

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Issue 18



**Class of  
2025**



# Principal's Report

As we come to the end of my first year as Principal of Millwarra Primary School, I am filled with pride and gratitude for all that we have achieved together and excitement for everything that lies ahead in 2026. It has been a year full of learning, laughter, busy days and memorable moments. I can't wait to see where our amazing school community takes us next!

## Mini Market/ Christmas Carols

Our Mini Market and Carols was a wonderful success and it was truly heart-warming to see our school community come together for such a special evening. We are already looking forward to making it even bigger and better next year. A huge thank you to the generous local businesses who supported our Christmas Raffle, your kindness and support are greatly appreciated. We were thrilled to have Black Snake Productions bring along their animals for everyone to enjoy and the Warburton Fire Brigade CFA add to the excitement with a visit from Santa and the Grinch. We would also like to extend a sincere thank you to Warburton & District Anglers Inc. for their incredibly generous donation of \$1,369.35, your support means so much to our school community.

## Transition Day

Transition Day last Tuesday was a great success, with our Grade 6 students enjoying their time at high school and the opportunity to warmly welcome our 2026 Prep students to Millwarra. All students enjoyed spending the morning in their 2026 classes, building excitement and confidence for the year ahead.

## Grade 6 Graduation

Grade 6 Graduation on Monday night was a wonderful celebration and a huge success. We are incredibly proud of all our students and the growth they have shown during their time at Millwarra, and we wish each of them every success as they take this exciting next step into high school. Thank you to River Valley Church for catering our dinner, to Andy for organising the sound and lights.

# Principal's Report cont....

## Whole School Camp

Our Whole School Camp, held last Thursday night and Friday, was a fantastic experience for all students and a wonderful way to explore our local area together. Our Senior students rode their bikes to the Yarra Centre, and students across the school enjoyed time on the inflatables. On Friday morning, the Seniors rode into Warburton, before the whole school came together to enjoy a movie. Our Junior students then explored the Redwood Forest, while the Seniors rode back to school for a fun water fight. A huge thank you to our amazing parents Gemma, Nick and Bec, for organising and cooking dinner on Thursday night, your support was greatly appreciated. Thank you to Rod for cooking our breakfast pancakes for the whole school.

## Warburton Water World and Final Assembly

On Wednesday, students enjoyed a fun-filled day at Warburton Water Park before coming together for our final whole-school assembly. It was a special opportunity to celebrate learning and effort through our final Term awards, and we were delighted to have Aaron Violi MP join us to assist in presenting our 2026 student leaders with their badges.

Thank you for a wonderful year — I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe, relaxing holiday break, and I look forward to working together again in 2026.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or feedback please let me know.

***Melanie Hancock***

***Principal***

[melanie.hancock@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:melanie.hancock@education.vic.gov.au)



# Happy Retirement Dianne



Dianne has been a devoted member of the Millwarra Primary School community since 1999, contributing more than 25 years of dedicated service. Over this time, she has worn many hats – far too many to list – always stepping in where she was needed most. From providing targeted support to students, including leading the QuickSmart program, to her work in Disability Inclusion, First Aid, and the preparation of our fortnightly newsletter, Dianne’s commitment has been unwavering.



Her calm, steady support for students, deep understanding of additional needs, and strong advocacy for inclusion have made a genuine and lasting difference in the lives of many children and families. Dianne has also been someone we could always rely on, approaching every role with care, professionalism and attention to detail.

To serve one school for more than 25 years is truly remarkable. Dianne’s dedication, kindness and professionalism have helped shape the culture of Millwarra Primary School that we are so proud of today.



On behalf of our whole community, thank you, Dianne, for everything you have given to this school. We wish you all the very best in your retirement and hope the next chapter brings rest, happiness and new adventures. We will miss you greatly!

# Happy Retirement Meredith



Meredith has been a valued member of the Millwarra Primary School community since 2011. Her caring nature, calm presence and creative flair have brightened our Libraries, Art rooms, classrooms and hallways, with her beautiful displays showcased across the whole school.



As the heart of our Library, Meredith ensured it was always organised, welcoming and visually engaging. She built strong, meaningful relationships with both students and staff, earning much-loved nicknames along the way – including “Turtle” – which reflect the warmth and affection felt for her throughout our school.

Meredith has always put students first, approaching her work with patience, creativity and a genuine willingness to help wherever needed. Her work has helped shape the culture of Millwarra and has left a lasting impact on so many children and staff.

On behalf of our whole community, we thank Meredith for her many years of dedication, kindness and generosity. We wish her all the very best in her retirement and hope this next chapter is filled with joy, relaxation and everything she loves. We will miss you!

# Thank you

We would like to thank Jayne for her hard work and dedication over the past few years at Millwarra Primary School as we farewell her at the end of the year. Jayne came to us as a volunteer, offering to take a Craft Elective. Her artistic flair has always been admired and enjoyed by both staff and students, and her contributions have been felt across the school. In addition to supporting classrooms, Jayne ran Craft Electives over the years, supported in the Art Rooms and began our weekly After School Craft Club, which was always a highlight for students. Thank you, Jayne, for everything you have given to our community — we wish you all the very best and we are so glad you will be back next year for Afterschool Craft Club.



Thank you to Casey for teaching Art at Millwarra this year. Students and staff have loved having you as part of our school community, and your creativity and passion have been greatly appreciated. Your engaging and thoughtfully planned art lessons inspired students and brought creativity to life across the school. We wish you all the very best in your future endeavours and hope to see you again soon.

# DATES TO REMEMBER

Day	Date	What Is Happening
<b>Term 1</b>		
<b>January 2026</b>		
<b>Tues</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	School office opens at Millgrove: for both Campuses
<b>Mon</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Australia Day – Public Holiday</b>
<b>Tues</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	Staff return to school
<b>Wed</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	School office opens at our Warburton East Campus First day of school for 2026 – all students Prep students finish at 12:30pm

## 2026 Prep start dates

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January, finish at 12:30pm

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> and Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January, full school days

No Prep students on Wednesdays during February:  
4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February

All notices are sent home via *Compass*

Please check regularly - if you require help to set up your compass login, please contact the office at either Campus.

# Shining Stars

**Braxton**, Junior/WE, for using beginning letter knowledge, sound-letter relationships, known words and punctuation when creating a short narrative about a boy and girl at the beach.

**William**, Junior/MG, for being an excellent role model and helper in the canteen when we made Christmas chocolates for the market.

**Ryder**, Junior/MG, for being an excellent listener during the swimming program and for supporting our younger students in the pool.

**Annabelle**, Junior/MG, for being an excellent leader and helper in the canteen when we made our Christmas chocolates for the market.





**Leo B**, Senior/WE, for his excellent story about getting lost in the jungle. Leo used terrific ideas and grammar. Well done.

**Willow**, Senior/MG, for voracious Poetry writing and for impressive use of descriptive and emotive language in poetry.

**Lani**, Senior/MG, for impressive use of descriptive and emotive language in poetry.

**Riley**, Senior/MG, for some thoughtful and perceptive data analysis.

**Katie**, Senior/MG, for impressive use of descriptive and emotive language in poetry.

# 2025 Awards



Millwarra's Most Valuable Person, Awarded to: **Ruby**, for being an outstanding School Captain, consistently leading by example in everything you do. You demonstrate our school values every day through your actions, attitude and the way you support others.



Upper Yarra Secondary College Scholarship Awarded to: **Isaac**.



River Valley Church Scholarships Awarded to: **Brayden and Riley**.

# Chocolate Making



Earlier this term, we had some fun making chocolate treats for the Christmas market! We made chocolate bark, which the kids had a blast

decorating with all kinds of lollies. They had so much fun getting a little messy when dipping pretzel sticks in chocolate and rolling them in sprinkles.

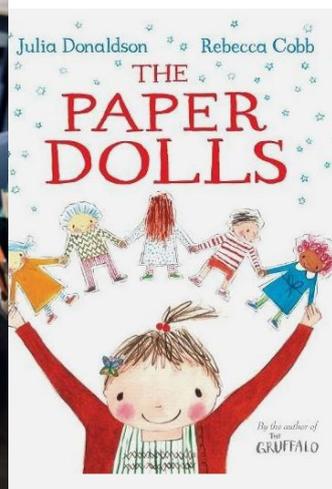
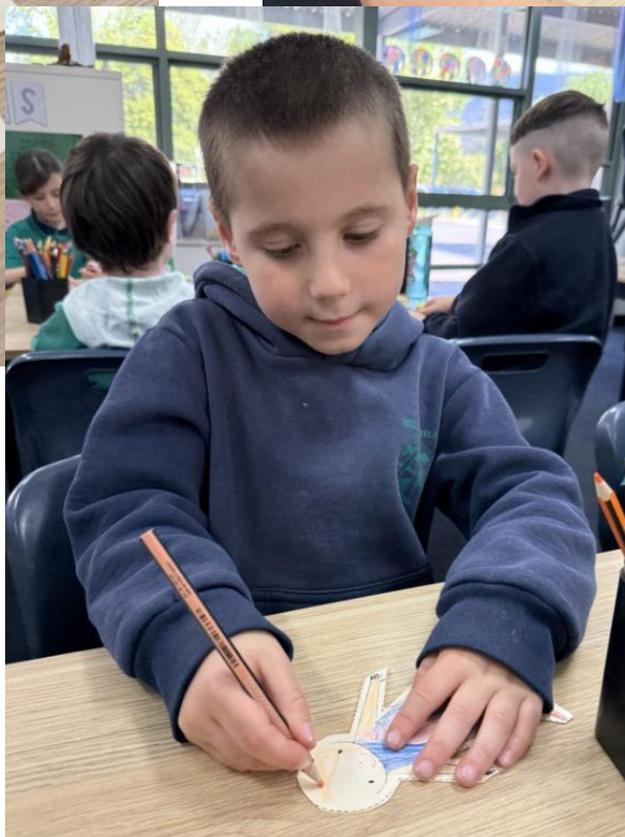
Everyone's favourite part was getting to try some of the lollies, but their least favourite part was having to sell the chocolates to others instead of eating it all. *Miss Smulders*

## ***The Paper Dolls***

This term, the Warburton East Juniors have been exploring and unpacking elements of successful authors. Julia Donaldson's most famous books include *The Gruffalo*, *The Gruffalo's Child*, *Room on the Broom*, *The Snail and the Whale* and *Stick Man* which are illustrated by Axel Scheffler.

Julia Donaldson has also published other children's picture story books that explore fictional objects, memory and artistic creation – *The Paper Dolls*. *The Paper Dolls* became a favourite of ours!

We took a passage from *The Paper Dolls*, to invent our own creative piece. Then we made our own paper dolls which can be seen in the photos attached. ***Nicole Hadjer***



### ***The Paper Dolls***

*They were Greg and Meg,  
And Bob with a job,  
And Bluey in a rocket,  
And Songbat with a Wrongbat.  
By Kyrro*

# ELECTIVES

BIKE ED  
GARDENING COOKING  
BEN'S SHED -  
WOODWORKING

***We finished all our woodwork. Thank you to everyone from Ben's Shed who helped us.***



# Millgrove Seniors have selected their favourite Poems



## Haiku

Storm clouds crack the sky  
Mountains tremble rivers roar  
Silence after rage  
*Willow*



## Acrostic

War  
Rampage  
Admire  
Terror  
Hateful  
*Brayden*

## Christmas

I feel love and happiness warming my body.  
I hear giggling and crackling of fire.  
I taste the faintly existing cereal from this morning.  
I smell the barbecue of eggs and bacon sizzling away.  
I touch wrapping paper crinkling in my hand.  
I see an elongated pine covered in colours from head to toe.  
*Lani*

I see mossy trees bulging out from the damp soil.  
I feel like I'm going to fall through the ground into  
some sort of a fantasy world.  
I hear birds cooing, lyrebirds mimicking, deers honking  
at each other and water droplets gathering on wet  
leaves dripping onto the forest floor.  
I taste berries bursting into my mouth like an amazing  
art piece when you look at it for the first time.  
I touch the bench on my back that has gradually grown  
rusty and mossy over the time it has stood still in that  
one place for many years on end.  
I smell rain in the area, such as it belongs to that one  
area and if anyone were to take it the world would end.  
I smell wood from the hundreds of thousands of trees  
surrounding me.

*Katie*



### Haiku

The rat loves the cheese.  
Rats run around the kitchen.  
The rat eats the cheese.

*Abi*



Dragons sleep  
Crystal cracks  
Cave collapses  
The darkness awakens  
Day and night become the  
same  
Heroes will rise up and....  
*Declan*

Oh, potty.  
You are super stinky and dirty.  
As smelly as a toilet covered in poo  
particles.  
As small as a mini suitcase.  
When I open the lid I already see you  
smiling.  
Oh, how I see you.  
*Raven*



Haiku  
Time is what heals us  
So don't let it destroy you.  
It only takes some time.  
*Riley*

There was an old frog from the fog.  
Who could never get off the log.  
One day he fell into a lake.  
Now he is wide awake.  
That poor frog from the log.  
*David*

*My bed  
I see garbage.  
I feel garbage  
I hear music from Spotify  
I taste juice from my bottle  
I touch my phone  
I smell my rubbish.  
Jasmine*



I went to school on a Monday  
And I was playing in the playground  
I went to the monkey bars  
And I was falling on the ground!

I had a graze on my leg  
And went to the sick bay  
After I was okay  
I gave our horses some hay.  
*Jake*



### The Artistic Rabbit

There was an artistic rabbit  
Who had a horrible habit.  
He tripped over a mole.  
And fell down a hole.  
That silly artistic rabbit.

*Hugo*



### Being A Different Object

One time I was turned into a die by a witch's magic.  
I'm not sure how because it's confusing for me.  
All I could do is stare into the void like I'm static.  
And be thrown like a rejected baby tree.

It felt horrible being thrown since I was sick,  
Seems like I was motionless because I didn't even have a single limb.  
People roll me as the 'die' as a 6 every time using a trick,  
I really want to be myself again and get a hair trim.

*Steven*



# Christmas Carols



## and Mini Market



# School Camp

What a fantastic time the children had at their End-of-year Local Sleepover Camp. Here are a couple of photos.



## Redwood Forest - From Camp:

On day 2 of our overnight camp, our Juniors explored The Redwood Forest! We had a lot of fun finding nests and walking between the massive trees. Everyone enjoyed the cool air under the tree canopy and listening to Jayne's stories about the nests and what creatures made them. - Miss Smulders



# Class of 2025







# 2026 Leaders

**MILLWARRA PRIMARY SCHOOL 2026**  
**SCHOOL CAPTAINS:**  
ZANDER & JACINTA  
**VICE SCHOOL CAPTAINS:**  
LILLY P & DECLAN

**ART: LILLY B**  
**ENVIRONMENT: LEO**  
**WELLBEING: DAVID**

**MILLGROVE CAMPUS**  
**REDWOOD HOUSE: WILL**  
**DONNA HOUSE: RAVEN**  
**YARRA HOUSE: DECLAN**

**WARBURTON EAST CAMPUS**  
**REDWOOD HOUSE: LEO**  
**DONNA HOUSE: LILLY P**  
**YARRA HOUSE: LILLY B**



Thank you to Aaron Violi for presenting our 2026 Leaders with their badges.



# Term 4 Winners



Warburton  
Water  
World





Values Award: **Maggie**  
Art Award: **Steven**  
Science Award: **Riley**  
P.E. Award: **Vinnie**  
AUSLAN Award: **Zander**



## I'm Retiring

After 26 years at Millwarra Primary School,  
I am retiring at the end of this school year.

I have so many wonderful memories  
and have truly enjoyed working with the students, staff,  
parents and wider community.

My role has been very varied, and I have loved every part of it.

For the past 25 years, I also produced the school newsletter:  
that is over 800 editions — and this will be my last.  
Thank you to everyone who contributed to them.

I will miss this amazing school.

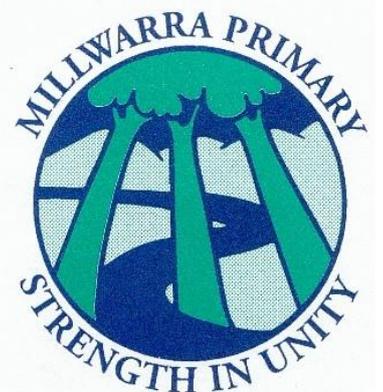
Dianne Walker



# Community Information and Notices

Community Bank  
Warburton and Yarra Junction

 Bendigo Bank



# Just \$5 Millwarra's Afterschool Clubs

Thank you to all who've attended this year & had fun with us. Thanks to our Gymnastics teacher Traci & volunteers Meredith & Fran. And to Jayne, Lauren, & now Keren for running these bargain Craft Clubs, so our kids have something fun to do afterschool. Thanks to Cat for offering Games, Lego & Mindfulness afternoons.

An extra thank you & goodbye to Meredith & Traci who won't be with us next year!

**HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY HOLIDAYS WE'LL SEE YOU NEXT YEAR.**



Please follow the Facebook dedicated to our Kinder Gym & our Afterschool Clubs. Posts regarding Clubs & Kinder Gym, will mainly be on there. Especially when there are cancellations. [Please Like & Follow, by clicking the picture or link in blue below.](#)

To contact us regarding Kinder Gym & Clubs, can you please use this Messenger on that page now:  
<https://www.facebook.com/share/15yyVCYvRa/>  
 instead of the school's Facebook Messenger.



## 2025 Kinder Gym

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR JOINING US THIS TERM AT MILLWARRA.**

**THANK YOU TO GRETTA, TRACI, CHLOE & MARISSA FROM GLITZ FOR HELPING MILLWARRA HAVE KINDER GYM IN THE UPPER YARRA VALLEY.**

2026 SESSIONS ARE LIKELY JUST WEDNESDAYS UNFORTUNATELY, WITH 3 SESSIONS RUNNING THOUGH. FOLLOW THE MILLWARRA CLUBS & KINDER GYM FACEBOOK FOR THE SIGN UP CODE. IF YOU HAVE BEEN A PREVIOUS PARTICIPANT, WE'LL TRY TO EMAIL YOU TOO.

Have a safe and happy Holiday season. We hope to see you again next year, either at Kinder Gym, enrolled at Millwarra, or at our Afterschool Gymnastics sessions for Primary Aged students. Contact our Facebook mid January if you need more information.

~ MILLWARRA & GLITZ.



Just \$15

## Kinder Gym 2026 Sessions

**WATCH THIS SPACE!**

**KINDER GYM WILL RETURN FEB. 4TH, & RUN IN WEEKS 2-9 OF TERM 1, 2026.**

\*Times, ages & groups to be confirmed. Follow this link for feedback on the group times, etc:  
<https://forms.gle/ysu2YP1q7Ba9w9JS6>

At this stage, Term 1:

- Wednesdays 12.50-1.35
- Wednesdays 1.40-2.25
- Wednesdays 2.30-3.15

The Sign Up Form link will be shared in January. First priority to current participants so watch out in your registered email. Then link for form will be shared online.

Term will need to be prepaid to secure the spot, & there'll be a discount.



# ASTHMA AUSTRALIA

**Summer holidays are an important time for kids with asthma.**

During all the festivities, please don't forget to keep up your child's asthma management and medicine as prescribed. Good asthma management over the holidays means less time off school when kids return in the new year, and less time off work for you.

To make sure your child stays as healthy as possible over the break and into 2026, you can take the following steps:

- Check your child's medicine(s) to make sure they're still in date.
- Keep using your child's preventer medicine as directed over the summer holidays, even if they're feeling well.
- If you're leaving the house or going on holiday, make sure you pack your child's asthma medicine(s) and a spacer.
- Book an Asthma Review with your doctor to get an updated written Asthma Action Plan during the holidays - you'll need this for Term 1 2026. Book in early as doctors can have limited appointments over the Christmas period.
- Use Asthma Australia's School's Checklist for parents and carers: [https://asthma.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/AA BTS2022 Asthma-Checklist\\_digital.pdf](https://asthma.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/AA_BTS2022_Asthma-Checklist_digital.pdf)
- To stay on top of your child's asthma management, complete the Asthma Control Test for kids and get their asthma score here: <https://asthma.org.au/asthma-control/>



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Respect *Community* Kindness *Resilience*

