



NEWSLETTER TERM 1 2026

Principal Judy's term reflections

What a wonderful start to 2026 school year and our journey to becoming a Global Centre of Excellence in Alternative Education! Your children - our students, are developing skills to become world changers, peace makers and experts in compassion with their service to others, creative thinking, effective communication, complex problem solvers and being brave-hearts!

Students have started on their ASDAN portfolios and most students have had the opportunity to complete the following challenges...

1. Workplace Health and Safety for the Tinkering shed and Loose Parts.
2. In the Tinkering Shed, Jaro has worked tirelessly with those students who want to experiment with engineering and carpentry. They have repaired old record players, worked with batteries and solar power, and built stuff. *Thank you so much, Jaro! We love and appreciate you!*
3. Created some amazing ventures in the Loose Parts
4. Designed and built a pizza oven using recycled materials
5. Learnt how to start a fire using a flint
6. Made and cooked pizzas and sweet potato wedges with avocado dip
7. Used the Indoor Theatre for plays and dress ups
8. Practiced their entrepreneurial skills with the 10% Markets which included donating 10% of their profits to their chosen cause or charity.
9. Donated care packages of food, clothing books and toys to the Gubbi Gubbi children in Nambour as part of their Service to Others.



This term the students have spent quality time on explicit teaching and learning, and enjoying more time outside and down at the creek.

I have finished re-designing our Behaviour Management Policy. It advocates a zero tolerance of any Non-Neohumanist behaviour (and these behaviours are clearly outlined in the policy, as are the proactive and responsive strategies, and consequences.)

All of our students must be able to feel safe, happy and be free to learn.

A big thank you to the most dedicated, professional and amazing staff at The River School! The work you do with the children is unique, exquisite and the results are remarkable. I'm very grateful for all your advice, love and support.

Thank you too, to the families that have given of their precious time and energy to support our school in a variety of ways including helping to distribute our promotional leaflets!

Next term

Please note that students will need to have covered footwear to work in the Tinkering shed. We have made shelving ready to store them.

We will have our Open Morning at the Gather and Grow on a Sunday early in Term Two, so that the children can show you around.

We will also have another Afternoon Tea when you can share your ideas and ask any questions you may have.

It takes a village to raise a child. Do not underestimate the importance of your role in our school. You are invited and welcome to be involved in your child's learning journey here at school.

I hope the break gives you and your family a moment or two to breathe and regroup.

Stay safe.

With love,

Judy AKA Nana Bear`



TERM HIGHLIGHTS

Gymnastics

Years 4- 6 participated in 4 weeks of gymnastics in struction with a coach from Nambour Gymastics.

Market Day

The inaugural market day was a huge success with students showcasing creativity, teamwork and confidence.

Cafe Night

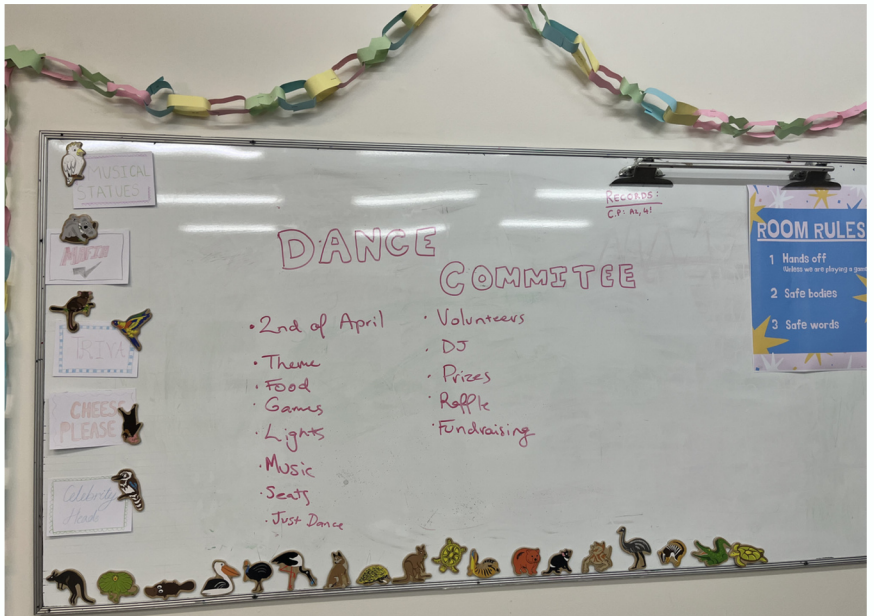
Term 1 Cafe night and P&F AGM. Was a fun night of connection to community, sharing of art and a delicious meal.



Arion

Student Wellbeing Officer.

- Clubs
- Community
- Connection



'We're coming to the end of our first term of After School Clubs! Over all we have a group of 16 kids attending across two days, which is a great turn out for our first semester.

On Tuesdays, during Board Games Club, we've explored some new games from my room, as well as getting to share some of the kid's fav games from home! So far Midden has been a recurring favourite - an Indigenous designed card game that's very similar to Uno!

On Wednesdays, at Student Council, we've done a tour of the school to see what Students thought they could help improve. We've also chatted with Pira, the School's Work Health and Safety Officer, to figure out what plans might be a little out of reach for us to complete (such as painting the entire playground pink, though that sounds delightful).

I'm looking forward to seeing what we come up with next Term, and please remember that if you're child missed out this time around, I will reopen enrolments at the end of Semester.



Dance committee

The year 5/6's are taking on new responsibilities this term, organising the River School Term 1 Disco! From surveying for themes and song requests to collecting decorations, these kids are ready to celebrate!

Lunch Clubs

Games club is back this term, in Arion's brand new room. With student's from all ages welcome, the room allows a space to explore new games and ideas, and socialise! On Tuesdays at second lunch, the seniors have their own private lunch club, often used to play trivia or quiz games, or just hang out and chat!

The P & F funded Resilience Program has been rolled out across all classes and will continue into term 2 & beyond.



This term the Puggles classroom has been full of growth, discovery and connection. We began by learning what it means to be a "Puggle person," exploring how to be kind, respectful and curious learners within our classroom and community. In our academic learning, we have been developing our understanding of numbers, shapes and measurement. We have been building strong foundations through hands-on experiences and play based learning. We have also explored different celebrations, to understand and appreciate diversity and shared experiences.



In PE, the Puggles have been strengthening their gross motor skills through a range of fun and active activities. Some of our most memorable moments have been spent outdoors, playing and learning in the "Gather and Grow" garden and exploring our beautiful creek. Through play-based learning and meaningful interactions, the children have been making connections with each other and the wider community. We cannot way to grow and learn even more in Term 2.

Kind regards,
Rob



Kingfisher Class Years 1 & 2



What a fabulous and exciting time we have had in the Kingfisher room so far this year. As we reach the end of term, it has been wonderful to reflect on the many achievements across our learning areas. We have connected as a school family beautifully, and we have extended our learning well beyond the curriculum in so many realistic ways. Gather and Grow has certainly allowed many hands on activities and real life experiences to provide leaning opportunities, and has been a big hit with our class.

In mathematics, our Year 1 and Year 2 students have shown great progress in developing number confidence, problem-solving skills, and their ability to explain their thinking. Collaborative marble run designs and constructions were a fun way to demonstrate our knowledge and understanding.

In science, students explored life cycles, gaining a deeper understanding of how plants grow and change. Our sunflower, basil and pumpkin seeds have all faced various impacts from possums and bush turkeys. The curiosity and thoughtful observations made during this learning were often deep and profound.

Technology lessons were full of creativity and collaboration, with students designing and building dioramas and marble runs. These hands-on projects encouraged problem-solving, perseverance, and teamwork, with many students proudly refining their designs through trial and error. Year 2 students even designed their very own advertising brochures on computers as part of their unit work.

Our Wellbeing and Resilience unit focused on building emotional intelligence. Students learned strategies to manage challenges, express their feelings, and support one another. Culminating in our spectacular 2026 Trade Show this week, is certainly a proud teaching moment and something ALL the Kingfishers should be proud of. It has been delightful see confidence grow, both academically and personally.

Overall, this term has been a celebration of effort, growth, and resilience. We are incredibly proud of all students and the positive mindset they bring to their learning each day. Happy holidays everyone. Enjoy time with family.



We are Piccabeens Year 3



The Piccabeens embraced the term with enthusiasm, curiosity, and a wonderful sense of adventure. Throughout our 'Little People, BIG Dreams' unit of inquiry, we thoroughly enjoyed exploring the lives of the inspiring role models that we chose individually. Their stories have offered wisdom, and we have developed a deeper understanding of the values that guided their meaningful and purposeful lives. These reflections have also encouraged us to think thoughtfully about how we might integrate these values into our own unfolding journeys.

Our maths inquiries beyond the classroom have been just as engaging as the rich, hands-on learning experiences within it. Through mathematical interactive strategies and games, we have developed a strong understanding of place value, using these experiences as a foundation for deeper number learning.

Our modelled reading novel, *James and the Giant Peach*, has been an absolute highlight. We have enthusiastically participated in a range of meaningful and engaging literacy activities inspired by this humorous and adventurous story.

We have seen wonderful growth in our social and emotional awareness, which has led to greater decision making and the deepening of our friendships. It has been especially rewarding to observe how we have learned to support one another, communicate effectively, and build positive connections.

A truly sensational term!



Wattles - Year 4

REGENTS ~ YEAR 5



This term has been a wonderful journey for our Wattles and Regents students as they came together as a composite class. While there were some initial adjustments, the way students have embraced one another and built a strong, inclusive community has been truly admirable. They have learned to work both independently and collaboratively, supporting each other's growth and celebrating shared successes along the way. We are incredibly proud of how this group has developed and are excited to see what they will accomplish together next term. Science has been a major focus of inquiry for the Wattles, and what a fantastic way to wrap up the term by celebrating learning when we share it with others. Our Mycologists took centre stage this week, presenting their specialist fungi to an engaged audience. Each scientist confidently shared their knowledge, explaining characteristics, life cycles, food chains, and the fascinating symbiotic relationships fungi have within forest ecosystems. It was inspiring to see the clarity, depth of understanding, and passion in every presentation. Opportunities like these not only strengthen learning but empower students to see themselves as real scientists. There is so much pride in nurturing the scientists of the future.

Our brilliant Regents scientists unveiled fascinating insights at our Science Symposium into how Earth and the life it sustains has transformed and adapted across its 4.5-billion-year history. From dramatic geological shifts to the evolution of life and climate resilience, each discovery highlighted the complexity and wonder of our ever-changing planet.

Sincere gratitude to parents and carers who have supported me and your beautiful children this term. It has been my pleasure to nurture and inspire their imagination and curiosities. It has been a term filled with growth, collaboration, and achievement, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.



RED CEDARS YEAR 6

SCHOOL LEADERS



Red Cedars have had a fantastic term, inspired by the novel *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*. A young Malawian child who in adversity was able to harness the wind and make electricity.

Red Cedars then wrote an information report about an African country, using their chrome books to investigate their chosen country.

We also studied Australian history looking into Australia's past, and Australia today. We explored what impacts the first fleet had, the colonies, Federation of Australia and Referendums.

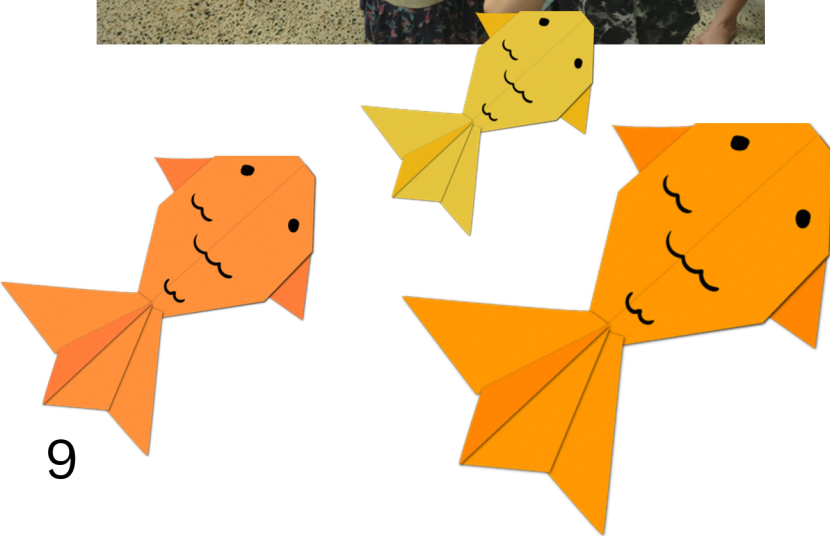
The Red Cedars enjoyed recharging our batteries at the creek and organising afternoon circle doing things such as sharing bunya nuts with our local community, which was enjoyed by all.



Japanese Culture & Language

Sensei Sharon had a busy term 1 sharing and creating with the classes.

- **Red Cedars (yr 6)** finished the term by making clay models of their yuruchara mascots.
- **Wattles & Regents (yrs 4 & 5)** have been introduced to the world of anime & manga characters.
- **Piccabeens (yr 3)** have been making furniture and people for their housing unit.
- **Kingfishers (yrs 1 & 2)** took home their backpacks that accommodated the origami stationary made during the term.
- **Puggles (yr P)** made many origami creations including koalas and crowns.



Update from the Art Shed



Regents and Wattles have been exploring Media Arts focusing on animation. Wattles created animations of the life cycle of fungi while Regents linked their Earth & space sciences and the impact on the Earth's surface.

Red Cedars have made clay tiles representing nocturnal animals they are studying, as part of the early research for the Kids in Action Environmental program. Each tile will be glazed in term 2.



Piccabeens painting bisque fired pottery with glaze ready for the Maleny Show in Term 2



Kingfishers embellished their dioramas that were used in their Trade Show



Puggles created "Wonderful Me" self portraits that will be turned into pillows come term 2.



Holiday to do list

- Check all family for headlice
- If lice or nits (eggs) found do treatments
- Clean all brushes etc.
- Check again in 2 days
- Repeat
- Repeat
- Repeat till we break the cycle!

How to conquer HEAD LICE in 6 easy steps

- 1. Hitting them strong and hitting them hard**
There are a number of strong chemical products on the market. These seem to appeal and revolt parents in equal numbers. While some don't like the idea of strong chemicals in such close contact with their child's skin, others find it reassuring for the very same reason - if there's chemicals involved, they must be doing a thorough job.
- 2. Going the touchy-feely route**
Also available are natural products based on essential oils and pyrethrin, which smell a lot better than the chemical-based products. Because these products aren't as strong as the chemical-based ones, they usually need to be left in the hair longer to take effect.
- 3. Cooking up some homebrew**
Like all good homebrew recipes, everyone has a different one that they swear by. Mostly though, they are made up of things that you could find in the kitchen or bathroom. Almost all are bulked out with thick conditioner. Popular recipes usually include: tea-tree oil, eucalyptus oil, vinegar, olive oil, orange oil, lavender oil.
- 4. Using hair spray/ hair gel**
During an infestation of nits, spray your child's hair with hairspray, or comb through hair gel to make it more difficult for the lice to attach to their hair shafts.
- 5. Trying the white conditioner treatment**
Regular combing is the key to keeping lice under control. Apply a thick, white conditioner (it makes it easier to see the nits and lice against white) and using a nit comb, section the hair and carefully comb, wiping each comb-full of conditioner, nits and lice onto a paper towel. Keep combing until you can't see any more eggs or lice in the conditioner. Repeat after seven days.
- 6. Applying vinegar**
Thoroughly douse your child's hair with vinegar and leave for 15 minutes to allow the vinegar to kill the lice. Apply the white conditioner treatment.

kidspot

First Day of Term 2
Monday 20th April

ANZAC Day ceremony

Saturday 25th

Red Cedar School

presenting at the Maleny

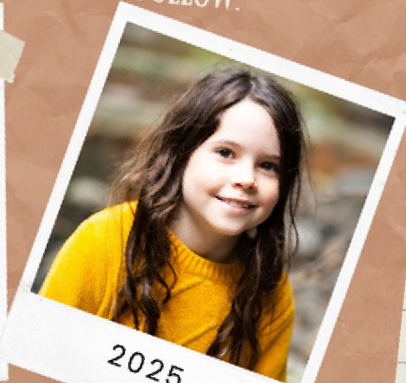
Memorial Hospital

9:40am

DATE CLAIMER ~ SCHOOL PHOTOS
WEEK 2 ~ TERM 2
PHOTOS BY KETAKI JEWSON-BROWN
MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW.



2025



2025

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

Monday 4th May

Friday 29th May

TERM EVENTS:

Red Cedar Camp

Kids in Action

Readers Cup

SE QLD's leading
Education Expo

25 July, 2026

The
EDUCATION Fair



The
EDUCATION Fair

Home About Upcoming Events Get Tickets Past Events Contact Exhibitor Portal

2026 Exhibitors: Sunshine Coast, Sunshine Coast Schools

The River School



The
EDUCATION Fair

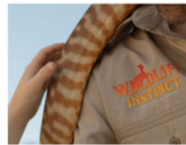
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The Education Fair

Sunshine Coast

UniSC Arena
32 Olympic Way,
Sippy Downs QLD 4556

25 July, 2026
9 am – 2 pm



Wildlife Instinct



The River School



Groves Christian College



Wander with the Wildlings



SCHOOL HOLIDAY TENNIS

With Katya

JUNIOR TENNIS COACHING

Tuesday 14 April
Wednesday 15 April
8.30am – 11.30pm
Coaching
Drills & Games
Morning tea & fresh fruit
\$25

KIDS FUN AFTERNOON

Friday 10 April
3pm – 6pm
Fun and Games
Mini Tennis Tournament
Refreshments
Sausage Sizzle Supper
\$25

Kid's Tennis Coaching

Witta Tennis Club is registered as a provider for Queensland Government Play On Sports Vouchers

We welcome young tennis players to sign on for Term 2 2026, Tennis Coaching Program. The coaching sessions are one hour each week for 10 weeks.

The cost for the program is \$200.00, which is the value of the Voucher.

The vouchers are available at:

<https://www.sport.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports>

For more information about the coaching program email mareehooley@gmail.com or call 0437 295 501

Rsvp: Maree Hooley
mareehooley@gmail.com
0437 295 501



Easter Holiday Activities



What

Make your own
Rainforest Readers
Badge!

When

1 + 2 April
3pm to 4pm

Cost

Free!
DROP-IN



Workshop with
children's author
Jayne McIntyre
about all things
owls

8 April
10am to 11am

\$5
Redeemable
against
Jayne's book



Fish, Frogs &
The Future
Story Time

9 April
10am start

Free!



Kate Kazony Picture
Book Launch and
Story Time
*Rashmi and the
Rainforest Readers*

15 April
10am start

Free!



Meet mystery
creatures with
wildlife handler,
Nicci, from Happy
Little Turtle

16 April
10am to 12 noon

\$20

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