



# Denison State School Newsletter

Term 3 Week 2, 2025

## A Note from Mrs Dyer

It's hard to believe we're already into Term 3, and what a fantastic start it has been! Last week, our Year 5 and 6 students attended their annual camps, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. I had the pleasure of joining the Year 5 camp and was so impressed by the way students challenged themselves and developed important life skills such as communication, persistence and cooperation. Camp staff spoke highly of our students' respectful behaviour and positive attitude, something we are all incredibly proud of. A big thank you to the dedicated staff who organised and attended the camps, their efforts made these experiences possible. Congratulations also to the students who represented our school this week at the Regional Shield Netball and Football competitions. These students showed great sportsmanship and school pride. Thank you to all the parents and carers who supported their children in attending these events, we truly appreciate your involvement.

We're also excited to launch "Fun Friyays" this term. This is an opportunity for students to explore their interests and try new activities on a Friday afternoon. However, there is a catch! Students who have incomplete learning tasks, unfinished assessments, or who have not acted on feedback will be working with Mrs Knickel and myself to catch up and ensure they are meeting their learning goals.

As we settle into the term, we'd like to remind all families of the importance of wearing the correct school hat each day. To support our sun safety policy and maintain uniform standards, we ask that students leave fun or non-uniform hats at home and come prepared with their school hat each day.

Finally, a reminder that we are continuing to monitor student attendance closely. Our current whole-school attendance rate is 90.1%. Regular attendance plays a vital role in learning success, so we thank you for your continued support in getting your child to school every day.

### Digital Safety & Student Wellbeing: A Shared Responsibility

As a school, we are seeing an increase in issues linked to students using mobile phones and social media, both during and outside of school hours. These challenges are having a noticeable impact on student wellbeing, behaviour, and relationships.

While technology and social media can offer opportunities for learning and connection, they also present risk, particularly when children are unsupervised online or not yet equipped to manage the complexities of digital communication. Messages can be posted in an instant and, once shared, are often difficult to remove. Unfortunately, these interactions can sometimes lead to cyberbullying, exclusion, or the spread of inappropriate content.

In response to these concerns, our school has taken proactive steps to support students and families. Last semester, we hosted ThinkUKnow sessions for both students and parents. Delivered in partnership with the local Police, these sessions provided valuable information about safe online practices, setting boundaries, and managing online conflict.

We would like to remind families of a few simple but powerful strategies to help protect your child online:

- **Set boundaries and rules for internet and device use at home.**
- **Be aware of your child's online activity—know what platforms they use and who they interact with.**
- **Encourage open conversations about their online experiences and reassure them they can talk to you if something feels wrong.**
- **Teach practical skills like taking screenshots, blocking or reporting users, and adjusting privacy settings.**
- **Create tech-free zones or times, such as a family charging station at night, to promote healthy habits.**

If your child is affected by inappropriate online behaviour, you can contact the school for support. Serious concerns, including threats or persistent harassment, should also be reported to the eSafety Commissioner ([www.esafety.gov.au/report/cyberbullying](http://www.esafety.gov.au/report/cyberbullying)) or the police where necessary.

Together, we can work to ensure that our children are not only safe online but are developing the respectful and responsible digital habits they need for the future.

For further resources and guidance, we recommend:

[www.esafety.gov.au](http://www.esafety.gov.au)

[www.thinkuknow.org.au](http://www.thinkuknow.org.au)

[www.kidshelpline.com.au](http://www.kidshelpline.com.au)

### Student Use of Mobile Devices – 'Away for the Day'

At Denison, we are committed to providing a learning environment that prioritises student wellbeing, engagement, and achievement. As part of this commitment, all students are required to follow the Queensland Government's 'Away for the Day' policy regarding mobile phones and personal devices.

Under this policy, all Queensland state school students must have their mobile phones switched off and out of use during school hours. Smartwatches and other wearable devices must also have notifications turned off, so that calls, messages, and alerts are not received during the day. This statewide approach follows an independent review conducted by Ms Cheryl Vardon AO, former Queensland Family and Children's Commissioner. The review involved consultation with students, families, principals, and education staff across the state, along with a review of current research.

The 'Away for the Day' policy supports:

- Safe, focused learning environments
- Increased face-to-face social interaction
- Improved student wellbeing through greater physical activity and reduced screen time

• Protection from the risks of inappropriate or unsafe technology use

At Denison, all student phones must be handed in to the school office at the start of the day. They can be collected at the end of the day from the office or from the bus duty teacher.

We thank all families for their continued support in helping to create a safe and focused learning environment for every student.

### School Opinion Survey

This year's School Opinion Survey runs from 28 July to 22 August. Parents, carers, students in selected year levels, and staff have been emailed a link to participate. Your feedback will help us understand our school's strengths and areas for improvement. Survey responses are confidential. Find out more on the [School Opinion Survey webpage](#) or contact school administration.



### Parentline service supporting parents and carers

Parentline is a free, confidential counselling service available for all Queensland parents and carers. If you need support navigating challenging situations, Parentline offers qualified counsellors who can help with expert advice, emotional support and referrals when needed.

Parentline's services include:

- practical parenting resources on their [website](#)
- live webchat with professional counsellors
- phone support for immediate assistance (1300 30 1300)
- the option to pre-book ongoing sessions with the same counsellor
- online counsellor-facilitated parenting forums for shared support
- referrals to other family support services when additional help needed.

Visit their website ([parentline.com.au](http://parentline.com.au)) for more information today, or give them a call on 1300 30 1300.

**Leigh Dyer**  
Principal



**ABSENT NOTIFICATION**  
**SMS 0426 305 726**

# Classroom Bulletin

## Prep

### Jade Wearne & Emma Smith

The children have returned with great energy and are settling back into classroom routines with ease. This term, we'll be continuing to build on the learning from Semester 1, with a focus on developing greater independence in writing, continuing our alphabet sounds and learning new digraphs, extending our number knowledge, and exploring new topics in Science and HASS.



It's also a time where we continue to grow socially and emotionally, working on sharing, turn-taking, and showing kindness in all we do. Please ensure your child has all their belongings labelled and homework is due back on Friday's to be marked and readers swapped if reading log is signed. We celebrated our 100 days of Prep in Week 1 of Term 3. It's hard to

believe how much our students have grown and learned in their first 100 days of school and was a great day to celebrate that learning!

## YEAR 1

### Rebecca Anderson

Hello 1A families and welcome back. A welcome back email was sent to everyone on Monday, if you did not receive it please let me know. This term we are looking at families and important events. Can you please send in or email a baby photo and a photo of your child celebrating a special event before the end of week 3 please. Looking forward to another eventful term with everyone.



## YEAR 1/2K

### Brooke Kropp



Welcome back to Term 3! We're had an amazing start to the term, and everyone has settled back well into the routines in the classroom. It was great to see everyone back on Monday and hear about all their adventures over the break. From this term students will be eating brain break during our

shared reading time. This occurs between 9:25-9:55 each day. Brain Break should be a fruit, vegetable, cheese or yoghurt option for your child to choose from to eat during this time. Can I please ask that your child have their fruit or vegetable snack in a small container or a Ziploc bag so that they can place on their desk at the beginning of each day. Cheese or yoghurt will still be placed into the fridge. As we're now eating inside the classroom can I please ask that nothing too messy is sent for your child to eat during this time.

## YEAR 2

### Jen Martens & Kerry Taft

Welcome back to Term 3! We are very impressed that everyone has reset and remembered our school expectations and routines. This term we are introducing weekly topic talks to practise presentation skills for English. Please refer to note sent home for weekly topics. For Science we are seeking recyclable materials. Please bring in any recycling donations to the classroom.



## YEAR 6

### Jess Walters & Grace Cochrane

Welcome back to Term 3, Year 6! It's been great to see everyone settling back into learning after our exciting camp in Week 1. Please remember to bring a packed lunch, hat, and water bottle each day so you're ready for class and play. We're looking forward to a fun and productive term together!



## YEAR 5

### Shelley Whittaker & Hope Ponte

Welcome to Term 3. With a very busy start to our term having returned from Year 5 Camp last week we are now into it. New routines are being established following changes for this term. The students seemed to have settled in well. Thanks to all involved with the Camp experience as the students who went made lifelong memories. Remember to remind your child to wear their school hat to and from school as well as at school and water bottles need to be used daily.



## YEAR 4

### Petrea Back & Bree Ellis

Year 4 have jumped straight into learning this term and have impressed us with their use of the correct persuasive text structure. Prepare for some convincing arguments by the end of the term! We're looking forward to a fun term, exploring materials in science and maps in HASS. We're covering lots of concepts in maths including, fractions, multiplying and dividing decimals, measurement and geometry. Children should have their school hat each day as well as an appropriate brain break (fruit, vegetables, yoghurt, cheese) to put on their desk at the start of the day.



## YEAR 3

### Amber Bishop & Zoe Prescott

Year 3 have had a wonderful start to term 3. This term we are working on expressing a preference and verbalising a persuasive text in English and exploring length, mass, capacity, shape, angle, fractions, multiplication and division in Maths. The year 3 classes will no longer be doing rotations for Art, HASS and Science, meaning your child's classroom teacher will now teach these subjects to your child. Start thinking of your book week costume for the parade in week 6! Everyday counts. Remember send your child to school every day with a water bottle and hat.



## YEAR 3/4K

### Kathleen Stahl

Over the last week we have been unpacking their assessment task for their speaking and listening assessment (persuasive writing). We have been using the Bump it Up wall to match the I can statements to the marking criteria so the kids know exactly what is expected for the task and they have set their goals with their strategies they will be using! In math, Year 3 has been learning all about unit fractions and representing them in different ways. The Year 4's have been learning about place value to 10,000 and multiplying by the power of 10. It has been great to see that the kids are super excited for their gameshow style science lessons. A friendly reminder that homework folders went out this week and I am creating a homework club on Thursdays 1<sup>st</sup> break to assist and encourage the kids to do their homework as it reinforces what we are learning in the classroom. As part of their homework, each week they have been allocated a day for a speaking and listening task that was set in their homework. Looking forward to hearing them using their strategies to convince their audience!

## YEAR 5/6M

### Kayla Mitchell

We have started off with a bang with both year levels enjoying week one at camp. The students who attended both camps have reported back that they enjoyed their time with friends and having the chance to complete activities that challenged them. 5/6M are looking forward to a busy term exploring our new units of work and have already begun to develop their understanding of what will be required over the course of the term.







## OUR UNIFORM EVERYDAY

Wide brim hat

Small hoop or stud earrings

School Polo Shirt

Black or Maroon jumper in Winter

Black shorts, Skirt or skorts

Black or Maroon long pants in winter

Closed in shoes

Plain black or white socks

**I wear my full school uniform everyday**

## Important events coming

24th & 25th July	CH Track and Field Trials
25th July	Crazy Hair Day (P&C)
1st August	Western 7's Rugby Union
6th August	ESHS Q & A visit (year 7)
22nd August	Book Week Parade
5th September	Student Free Day
5th September	P&C Spring Fete
19th September	Last Day of Term 3
6th October	Kings B'day public holiday
7th October	1st Day of Term 4



## PBL

### Positive Behaviour for Learning

Be Kind

Be Safe

Be a Learner

PBL News-Reset, Revise, Re-establish

Returning to school after holidays is not a one-size fits all approach for our students. For some it is exciting, and these students hit the ground running on day one. However, for others the transition takes a little longer. To assist this transition and to ensure that all students have a great start to the new term our PBL focus for the first two weeks of every term is always about re-setting, revising and re-establishing.

During the first two weeks of this term, through our PBL framework, we are revising school routines and expectations for before school, after school, brain breaks, eating time, playtime, whilst moving around the school and inside the classroom. We are also focusing on recognising emotions and feelings and the strategies that support regulation of emotions and feelings. Positive relationships and relationship building is another focus for the beginning of the term as students reconnect with school staff and their classmates. Having a clear direction for the term is very important and the beginning of the term also brings with it the opportunity for students to re-set their personal and academic goals for the upcoming term.

We look forward to another term of learning engagement and positive relationships and thank you for supporting your child to be the best they can be every day.



## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

POSITIVE CULTURE FOR LEARNING

Pedagogy



## Spring Fete

We are announcing our Spring Fete Raffle! For your chance to win \$2500 in cash, purchase the winning ticket (\$5 each). Don't forget to write your name and phone number on your ticket!

Be on the look-out for raffle tickets (coming home with students soon). If you need more tickets to sell, please see the Office.

All tickets (including unsold tickets) need to be returned to Denison School Office by Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

Prize will be drawn at 8.30pm on 5/9/25 at the Fete.

Winner will be informed by phone



## LIBRARY

Library lessons have once again commenced for the new term, with some changes to borrowing days and times for classes:

Monday	Prep S	Prep W	1A		
Tuesday	4E	3/4K	3B	5W	
Wednesday	4B	5/6M			
Thursday	2T	6W			
Friday	5P	2M	1/2K	3P	6B

Happy reading! Maree Heslin and Lisa McHugh

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS: Central Highlands Toyota, Toyota, Chrysler, Ford, Service, Aabm, Quarries of Queensland, RAM.

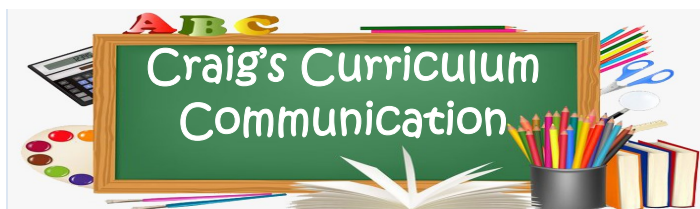
**DENISON STATE SCHOOL**  
**Spring Fete**  
*Fun for the whole family!*  
 16 GRAY ST. EMERALD QLD  
 5TH SEPTEMBER 2025  
 4PM - 9PM

MARKET STALLS  
 FACE PAINTING  
 RIDES  
 BAR

LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT  
 FOOD  
 CENT SALE  
 BAKE STALL

denisons25th Denison State School Carnival





Hello Families and Friends of Denison State School,

For Term 3 I have been appointed as Head of Curriculum. I understand that this year a significant focus of ours has been on developing reading skills.

I would like to remind you that the Premier's Reading Challenge will end on 22<sup>nd</sup> of August. Children and students who complete the challenge have their efforts recognised through the receipt of a Certificate of Achievement.

For a student to successfully complete the Premier's Reading Challenge they are required to read or experience the number of books indicated below:

- Prep to Year 2—read or experience 20 books.
- Years 3 to 4—read 20 books.

#### Years 5 to 9—read 15 books.

Sometimes it can be difficult to select books that are age or topic appropriate for our children. Below are some tips from children's book author Louise Park.

Content is all about finding a book they want to read:

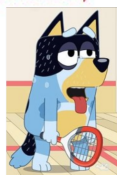
- Make time to read together every day – the longer the better, but even 15 minutes is better than not at all.
- When you get there, judge a book by its cover. We all do and the covers are designed to help you know what kind of story is inside. Involve your child in the process. Have them pick covers they like the look of and then guide them in how to assess if it is the one for them. Read the back cover blurb together and then revisit the cover armed with that information.

Now look inside! The interior of the book, its layout and design are even more important. Is the type size what your child needs? Are there lots of small and manageable chapters to foster a sense of achievement? Are there engaging illustrations that provide reading breaks? Consider the number of words per page.



**Craig Parrish**  
Head of Curriculum

## EMERALD JUNIOR TENNIS FIXTURES SEASON 2 (JULY TO NOVEMBER 2025)



**GRADINGS ARE ON FOR THE NEXT 3 MONDAYS (14<sup>TH</sup>, 21<sup>ST</sup> AND 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY)**

**TIME:** 3.30PM – 5PM

**COST:** \$5 PP – INCLUDES FRESH FRUIT FOR AFTERNOON TEA

**TIME ALLOWANCE WILL BE GIVEN TO JUNIORS WHO NEED TO TRAVEL INTO EMERALD FROM OUTLYING TOWNS**

**IN ORDER TO PLAY JUNIOR FIXTURES - JUNIORS MUST BE ABLE TO GET 50% OF THEIR OVERARM SERVES IN FROM THE BASELINE, AND HAVE A GENERAL IDEA OF HOW TO RUN TO, AND HIT A BALL.**

**ANY QUESTIONS??? DON'T HESITATE TO CALL**

ELLY YELLAND 0448 711 827  
LESLEY MURREE 0419 649 251  
DON CAMERON 0439 877 797

**2025 Premier's reading challenge**

Where will reading take you?

Official sponsor: QUT, Queensland University of Technology

Register at [qld.gov.au/ReadingChallenge](http://qld.gov.au/ReadingChallenge)

Queensland Government

**Please do not forget your participation in the Premier's Reading Challenge.**

**Completed reading logs can be brought into the office.**

## FUN FRI-YAY

- 01** Students complete their classwork.  
\*Students who have not applied effort to their work, or completed assessment will be required to do a curriculum catch up class with Mrs Dyer and Mrs Knickel on a Friday afternoon
- 02** Students select a FUN FRI-YAY Activity.  
Students will commit to an activity for weeks 3-8 for the term. We have gardening, sports, craft, lego, arts, board games and more!
- 03** Let's work together to achieve our classroom goals! Remember to stay focused, ask questions, and embrace challenges. Then everyone gets to enjoy extra-curricular activities!

## Spring Feie

### Crazy hair day Fundraiser

The Fete committee are looking for donations\* for the Fete stalls. On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025, bring your donation and come dressed in your craziest hairdo!

\* Add a note to your child's donation with their name and class to go into the draw to win a ride wrist-band

Prep and Grade 1 - Packets of fun sized chocolates, Lollipops, Small bags of packaged lollies (Nerds, Trolli, Mentos, etc.)

Grades 2 and 3 - 600mL water bottles, soft drink cans, poppers

Grades 4, 5 and 6 - 125L and 2L soft drink bottles