



Mac Valley Views

Newsletter - Week 5, Term 1 2026

Principal: Sarah Allen



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Term 1 2026

- 26-27 Feb - Leadership Camp (Yrs 5-6)
- 27 Feb - Canteen resumes for Term 1
- 5 Mar - Basketball at Maroota PS (Y5/6)
- 6 Mar - Swimming Program (K-6)
- 9 Mar - Dental Health visit
- 10 Mar - Welcome Breakfast
- 11-23 Mar - NAPLAN
- 12 Mar - Basketball at Maroota PS (Y5/6)
- 19 Mar - Basketball at Maroota PS (Y5/6)
- 20 Mar - HPGE-Middle Dural PS (Yrs 5-6)
- 23 Mar - NSW Police visit
- 24 Mar - Swimming Program (K-6)
- 26 Mar - Basketball at Maroota PS (Y5/6)
- 2 Apr - Cross country at Maroota PS
- 3 Apr - Good Friday
- 4 Apr - Easter Monday
- 7-17 Apr - Autumn School Holidays

Term 2 2026

- 20-21 Apr - Staff Development Days
- 22 Apr - Students resume for T2 2026

Principal's Report

Dear families and Friends,

We love watching the children's creative play unfold each day. It is such a joy to see the imaginative games they invent, the structures they build and the unexpected ways they use everyday materials.

At the same time, we are captivated by the natural wonders happening right before our eyes. In our pond in the 180th Commemorative Garden, we have been observing the remarkable process of tadpoles turning into frogs — and they now have tiny back legs! Watching this transformation unfold connects so beautifully with the children's own growth and discovery through play.



Self-directed play is so important because it allows children to explore their interests, solve problems, build confidence, and develop independence in ways that are meaningful to them. We are lucky to be able to play freely with so many wonderful resources and be surrounded by nature, which provides us with rich, real-life learning experiences every single day.

Be sure to watch the fun video soon to be posted on Facebook of the domino run in action — not sure if we will be waiting until we can get a video where the whole run works!!

Kind regards Sarah

Creative play





River Gum are improving their skills each week in basketball...



SCHOOL PROCEDURES - FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Communicating with our School

School communications at Macdonald Valley Public School rely heavily on email. Please ensure we have the latest contact details for your family. We publish a newsletter which is emailed to parents/caregivers every week. Colour copies of the newsletter are distributed to each child on Fridays and the newsletter is also always available on our School Website and through the School App. The Macdonald Valley Public School newsletter provides the latest news/events and community announcements.

Additionally, parents can give consent, pay for excursions, sign forms and respond to attendance alerts in our **School Bytes** app. The School Bytes app may be downloaded on the playstore or Google Play (for android phones)

Macdonald Valley Public School also has an official social media presence within the popular social networking site Facebook. Please follow us on Facebook!

We are committed to providing a supportive and communicative environment for everyone. If you need to discuss a matter with one of our teachers, please enquire at the school office in the first instance and an appointment time (either over the phone or face-to-face) can then be arranged.

ATTENDANCE

- We are here to support your child in getting the most out of their learning, which starts with them attending school every day.
- If your child is absent, please notify the School Office by either by either phoning us on **4568 2120**, emailing the school (macdonaldv-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au) or completing an absence advice on School Bytes. Doctor's Certificates are required for 3 or more days absent. Extended leave forms are required for 5 or more days absent.

PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR STUDENTS SAFE

- Please **always** present at the School Office first to sign your child in late, pick them up early or even just to drop off something to them. It is imperative for school safety and a mandatory requirement that we know who is on our school grounds at all times.

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...	they miss weeks per year	and years over their school life
1 day per fortnight 	= 4 weeks 	= Over 1 year missed
1 day per week 	= 8 weeks 	= Over 2.5 years missed

More information

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's Policy Library AND The Department's Attendance Matters Website

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's Wellbeing and Learning website

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on **131 450**. You will not be charged for this service.



Parent App

Available now!

Download on the App Store or Google Play by clicking the image below.



Key Features

- Get real time push notifications from your school
- Stay signed in and save your card for secure payments for fees and excursions
- Give consent, sign forms and respond to attendance alerts
- View the school calendar and news



Have you RSVP'd yet for our
Welcome BBQ Breakfast?



Macdonald Valley Public School

warmly invites you and your family to attend a

WELCOME BBQ BREAKFAST

**TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM**

Please join us in welcoming our
new Kindergarten family to our
school!



**GRANDPARENTS
& EXTENDED
FAMILY
WELCOME**

Please RSVP for catering purposes to the School Office on
ph: 4568 2120 by Thursday March 5, 2026, or via email:
macdonaldv-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

The
School
Photographer.

We capture their
smiles in a day,
so you can treasure
them for a lifetime.

School Photo Day is coming soon.

...Thursday April 30 2026

Your School, Your Story

theschoolphotographer.com.au

NSW Department of Education



Compulsory school attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my Legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the NSW Education and Standards Authority for home schooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The Importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

education.nsw.gov.au



NSW Department of Education

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.

My child won't go to school what should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences
You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.
- Application to the Children's Court - Compulsory Schooling Order
If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.
- Prosecution in the Local Court
School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The NSW Department of Education recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

education.nsw.gov.au

Macdonald Valley Public School is willing to support advertisements for local businesses and community functions for our youth, however parents will need to assess for themselves the quality of products and services advertised and the suitable management of functions attended by their children.

MAC VALLEY STARS!

We are very proud of our students' achievements in external events and competitions and are committed to recognising their achievements, however, this cannot happen unless we are informed.

Please ring us or send us something in writing if your child or a group of students achieve success in external events so we can recognise their achievements in our weekly newsletters.

Mrs Stafford
School Administrative Manager



P&C NOTICEBOARD

Our P&C meetings are generally held once per term (at a time to be advised).

ALL WELCOME!

P&C Committee

President: Emily Streckfuss

Vice Presidents: Susan Walker & Ieva Aboltins

Secretary: Fiona Kelly

Treasurer: Tanya O'Neill

Uniform Coordinator: Ieva Aboltins

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