



TERM DATES

Term 4

28/11/2025

Yr 3-6 Assembly @ 2.40pm

Assembly performance – 3/4A

01/12/2025–05/12/2025

P-2 Swimming Program

4/12/2025

2026 House Captain speeches

08/12/2025

Whole School Swimming
Carnival

09/12/2025

3rd Prep 2026 Orientation Session
Statewide Transition Day

2026 School Captain Speeches

11/12/2025

Year 6 Graduation

15/12/2025

EOY Awards & Concert
(commencing 9.30am)

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NEWSLETTER: Term 4 Week 9

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Celebrating Excellence: Congratulations to Mr Gale and Mrs Donaldson!

We are excited to share that **Mr Gale** and **Mrs Donaldson** have officially **graduated from the Teaching Excellence Program (TEP)** on Monday—a significant professional milestone and a wonderful achievement!

The **Teaching Excellence Program** is a year-long professional learning initiative for teachers across Victoria. Throughout the year, Mrs Donaldson & Mr Gale have participated in building their knowledge and skills around evidence-informed practice, which ultimately enhances student outcomes! **Thank you, Mr Gale & Mrs Donaldson**, for your commitment, hard work, and ongoing dedication to improving learning for all students at The Lake!



Prep and Year 1/2 Swimming Program!

This week our Prep and Year 1/2 students have been busy participating in their annual swimming program—and what a fantastic week it has been! Students have shown confidence, enthusiasm, and wonderful resilience as they worked on water safety, swimming skills, and building confidence in the pool.

A huge **thank you to Mr Trev**, who has been tirelessly completing the bus trips each day to ensure our students travelled safely to and from their lessons! Also, a big shout out to **Mrs Cohrs** for her very detailed organisation of the program and for co-ordinating the lessons with **First Stroke Swimming Centre!**



Reminder – Whole School Swimming Carnival this Monday – we hope to see lots of our families there to cheer on our students!

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Transition Day – Tuesday 9th December 2025

On **Tuesday 9th December**, all students will be taking part in the State-wide Transition Day. Our current Year 6 students will spend the day at their enrolled secondary schools, while students in Years 1–5 will spend the morning in their 2026 classrooms with their new peers and teacher. Our 2026 Prep students will also join us for their transition session from **9:00am–11:30am**.

As we approach Transition Day, we encourage all students to adopt a **growth mindset**—to be open, curious, and optimistic about new classmates, new teachers, and new opportunities. Change can sometimes feel challenging, but it is also an important part of learning. Embracing new experiences helps children build resilience, adaptability, and confidence in themselves. Our teachers bring deep knowledge of each child's learning style, needs, and wellbeing. They have carefully contributed to the class placement process, ensuring every student is placed where they can thrive. We ask for your trust in the professional judgement of our staff as they work to create the best learning conditions for every child.

Final 200 Night Home Reading Lunch

Congratulations on the incredible achievement of our students who have reached **200 nights of home reading this week!** I look forward to celebrating this significant milestone with you at your special lunch tomorrow! Students who have received an invitation **do not need to bring their lunch** tomorrow.

We are so proud of all students who have read 200 nights of home reading throughout the year and some students that are nearing 300 nights!

'Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time'.



Enjoy a cooler weekend (we hope!).

Kind Regards,

Ms Warburton

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WORKERS OF THE WEEK

Jandre Cronje, Reign Dea, Eden Carr, Hayley Appleby, Bailee Smythe, Logan Gale, Gemma Englefield, Evie Brice, Hannah Shaw, Gilligan Del Papa, Macey Herrick, Viviana Dichiera and Astrid Burt.



WELLBEING

'For the Good of Their Wellbeing'



As most of you will know, from the 10th of December 2025, young people under the age of 16 will no longer be able to access social media. For some, this will be a big adjustment. For others, a relief. No matter how you feel about this campaign, the evidence is clear, our young people need this change. Since the inception of the iPhone in 2007, mental health concerns in young people have increased significantly with a rise in anxiety, depression and stress. 67% of young people report a loss of sleep due to smartphone use. Many young people report that they don't want to spend as much time on their phones but equally they are unable to stop, as such, in this digital world this responsibility has fallen to parents, with many struggling to protect their children. Our government has stepped in and put the responsibility back onto the social media giants, with fines of up to \$50 million dollars for social media platforms that fail to comply with the new ban. If you need any support with the change, ideas on how to talk to your children about it, a list of which platforms will be affected, or any other information, the eSafety website has everything you need. <https://www.esafety.gov.au>

This change is designed to protect young people from the risks of harm from social media and to support their wellbeing.

Kind regards,

Miss Louise and Mr Mac

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STEM NEWS

STEM Learning Shines Across the School

This semester, our students have been doing extraordinary work in STEM, demonstrating creativity, problem-solving and impressive teamwork across all Year levels.

Check out the photos and the QR codes.

In Prep to Year 2, our youngest learners have been hard at work creating impressive *marble runs*. Students explored how ramps, angles, and gravity affect movement, building increasingly complex structures as their confidence grew. The teamwork shown throughout this unit has been exceptional — students planned, problem-solved and collaborated to create marble runs that stretched across tables, chairs, and classroom spaces. Their enthusiasm has been infectious!



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In Year 3–6, students have been deeply engaged in designing and constructing their own *solar-powered boats*. Using a range of materials and applying real engineering principles, they have explored how shape, balance, buoyancy and solar energy work together to create a successful design. The level of innovation has been outstanding, with students testing, refining and improving their boats through each stage of the design process. Their persistence and willingness to experiment have been a highlight of the program.



We are incredibly proud of the determination, creativity and technical skills shown by all students. STEM continues to be a vibrant and exciting part of our learning community, and we look forward to seeing what our innovative thinkers design next!

Mr. Bell (STEM Teacher)

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Working With Me

It is that time of the year where we are needing the students to complete the "Working With Me" form, which was sent home today. Could all families please take the time to complete the form with their child and please return to the office by no later than **Friday, 12th December 2025**. A form is attached to the newsletter below if needed.

Thank you, Mrs Rogerson and Miss Leah,

	Name: <input type="text"/>	<div>Please return by Friday 12th December 2025</div> 
	I am <input type="text"/> years old	
	Friends: <input type="text"/>	
<div>I work best when...</div> <div>I work best in the classroom when...</div> <div></div> <div>I work best when the instructions are...</div> <div></div>	<div>Things I find easy:</div> <div>When talking to others...</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"></div> <div>When people talk to me...</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"></div>	
<div>What helps me learn:</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"></div>	<div>Things I find hard:</div> <div>When talking to others...</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"></div> <div>When people talk to me...</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"></div>	
<div>What makes me happy:</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"></div>	<div>Things that worry me:</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"></div>	<div>Tools I need...</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">GlassesVisual timetableSlant boardSpeakerFM Microphone</div>

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The Lake Primary School
End of Year Awards & Celebration Morning
Monday 15th December 9:30am



Time	Activity
9:30am	Acknowledgement of Country Welcome & Opening Ms Warburton's opening speech Lakers Living by Our Values awards Writing Awards Mathematics Awards Home Reading Awards Physical Education Awards Mental Health & Wellbeing Awards
10:20am	Acknowledgement of Country Welcome & Opening Ms Warburton's opening speech Lakers Living by Our Values awards Writing Awards Mathematics Awards Home Reading Awards Physical Education Awards Mental Health & Wellbeing Awards
10:35am	Intermission (fruit platters & toilet break in classrooms, coffee van for adults) 
10:55am	School Council Thank You Merbein District Primary School Association and the Merbein RSL Awards Prep Unit Performance Year 1/2 Performance Year 3/4 Performance Year 4/5 Performance Year 5/6 Performance Year 6 Performance Farewell to staff members that are leaving The Lake PS 2026 School Captains and House Captains Announcement
11:20am	Announcement of Raffle Winners
11:30am	Conclusion Mrs Mumford's Music Group School Choir to sing 

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XMAS RAFFLE



Thank you to our families that have already donated to the Xmas raffle. Hamper donations can include Christmas items, chocolates, plants, stationary or bathroom supplies. Any donated food items must be non-perishable please. Tickets need to be returned by Friday 12th December.



2025 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Nominations are now open for students of The Lake PS in the following categories....

Community Leadership & Environmental Stewardship

Do you know a student who's effort is worth rewarding?

Guidelines are available at the school office or by emailing cabaritainc@gmail.com

Submissions due by Sunday Dec 14th

SMILE BRIGHT!
The Dental Van is
Coming to You!



Venue: The Lake PS
Date: 2-6 March 2026

WHO CAN ATTEND?

- Students of all age groups below 18

IMPORTANT DETAILS

- Services include general check-ups and preventive care
- Bring your student ID and health card (if applicable)

WHY YOU SHOULDN'T MISS?

- Check ups at school : No need for separate appointments
- No out of pocket cost : Covered by Medicare CDBS
- Learn oral hygiene and brushing techniques
- Treatments like Cleaning, Sealants, Fluoride, Fillings and more.

For More Information

- (03) 9132 0121
- www.australian smilegroup.com
- info@australian smilegroup.com.au



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Please remember to provide consent on Compass for your child to participate in this year's Swimming Carnival. **No children will be remaining at school** as all staff will be at the pool.

The Lake Primary Swimming Carnival



Merbein Swimming Pool

2

0

2

5

Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6
10.30am – 1.30pm

Grades Prep, 1 & 2
12:00pm – 1.30pm

Monday
8th December

Events & Approximate times

10:30am

Grade 5 & 6: breaststroke, freestyle, backstroke and noodle race

11:30am

Grade 3 & 4: breaststroke, freestyle, backstroke and noodle race

12:00pm

Grade 2: noodle race, kick board sprint and swim any way they can

12:00pm

Grade 1: noodle race, colour ball grab and kick board sprints

Prep: noodle race, colour ball grab and kick board sprints

After events conclude – Free Swim

1:30pm – Presentations

SCORING

For Year 2- 6 Students Only

1st Place = 5 points

2nd Place = 4 points

3rd Place = 3 points

Participation = 1 point

Parents/Family Welcome