

# YEAR 5

Week 5-10 2026: Newsletter





# READING: HARMONY WEEK!

During Harmony Week, Year 5 students engage in meaningful explorations of diversity, cultural inclusion, and the profound responsibility each person holds in creating safe, respectful communities. Through reading and analysing a carefully curated collection of texts including: *The Proudest Blue* by, Ibtihaj Muhammad, *I'm Australian Too* by, Mem Fox, *Listen* by, Duncan Smith and Nicole Godwin and *What Do You Celebrate* by, Whitney Stewart. Using these mentor texts, students examine how language, behaviour, and the presence (or absence) of bystander action directly shape the sense of safety and belonging experienced by others.

These texts provide powerful windows into the impact of negativity and unkind behaviour, helping students understand that words and actions ripple outward, affecting not only individuals but entire communities and one's sense of self. By discussing how discrimination and racism undermine cultural inclusion, Year 5 students develop empathy and awareness of systemic barriers others face. Critically, students move beyond passive understanding to active commitment, pledging to stand up against racism and unkind behaviour, recognising that they have agency as upstanders who can challenge injustice and support those targeted by prejudice.

This integrated approach to literacy and social emotional learning empowers young people to become advocates for diversity, to value the richness of different cultures and identities, and to understand that true harmony is built when every member of the community feels seen, valued, and safe.



# YEAR 5 JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL WRITING AND PRESENTING

Writing persuasive texts for Junior School Council elections provides Year 5 students with a meaningful opportunity to develop confidence in their voice and ideas while engaging in authentic democratic processes, which is mirroring our current Concept learning about democracy and the Australian Government. As candidates craft compelling and persuasive arguments about why they would be effective representatives, they learn to articulate their vision, justify their positions, and communicate with conviction, skills that build self assurance both as writers and as young leaders. Beyond the writing itself, the election process encourages students to practise respectful listening as they engage with peers' ideas, fostering an appreciation for diverse perspectives and thoughtful consideration of others' contributions.

By participating in a formal vote underpinned by integrity, students learn that meaningful leadership selection is grounded in choosing the best candidate based on merit, capability, and demonstrated values, rather than friendship connections or popularity. This experience cultivates critical thinking, ethical decision making, and an understanding of democratic principles at a tangible, age appropriate level. Through this combination of persuasive writing, active listening, and principled voting, Year 5 students not only develop greater confidence in their ability to influence and communicate, but also internalise the importance of fairness, respect, and genuine representation in their school community.

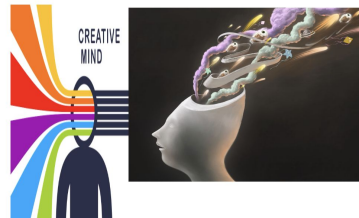
RONAN FOR JSC



Secondly, if you want to be JSC you must have **patience, honesty and loyalty**



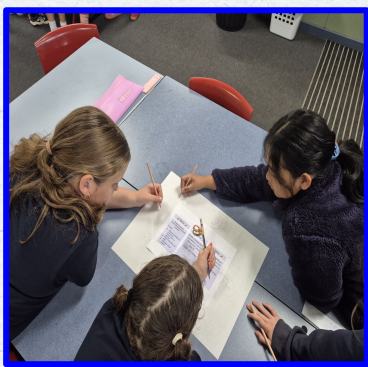
A creative mind with good ideas.



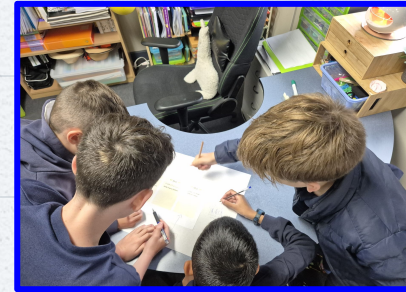
CONFIDENT

*I'm also confident and caring, and i listen respectfully and will always be that's why if im jsc you can share your ideas with me*

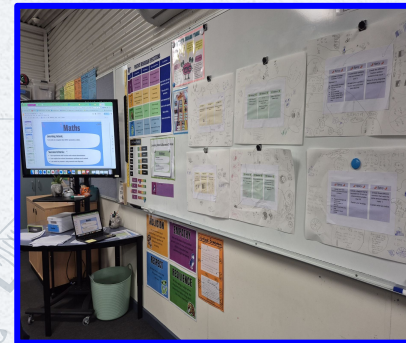
# MATHS PROBLEM SOLVING



Students thrive when given the opportunity to engage in authentic problem solving that encourages mathematical thinking and collaboration! Through exploratory investigations, students develop flexibility in their thinking and approach to challenging questions, utilising multiple strategies to solutions rather than relying on a single method to answer questions. As a cohort, we have been exploring what mathematical thinking is, and applying the different elements of that thinking to levelled problems, encouraging the use of different strategies to generate answers.



When working collaboratively, students articulate their reasoning, challenge each other's thinking, and build on shared ideas, transforming problem solving into a dynamic learning experience for all. We are encouraging our Year 5s to apply mathematical concepts creatively, make connections across different areas of maths, and develop resilience when faced with complexity. This collaborative, investigative approach not only deepens their mathematical understanding but also cultivates critical thinking skills and confidence in their ability to tackle unfamiliar problems with curiosity and strategic reasoning.





# 5/6 SPORTS!



Across Year 5 and Year 6, students have commenced the 5/6 sports program. Participating in sports develops a rich array of physical, social, and emotional skills that extend far beyond the playing field. Through regular engagement in team sports and individual activities, learners refine their movement capabilities, coordination, and athletic technique while building strength and cardiovascular fitness. More importantly, sports provide an ideal context for collaboration and teamwork and having the blend of both the Year 5 and Year 6 cohorts, this facilitates students' ability to communicate effectively with different peers, support their new teammates, strategise collectively, and work toward shared goals with new people. The challenges inherent in competitive sports foster resilience, problem-solving, and the ability to manage both success and setback with respect, integrity and empathy.

Beyond the immediate benefits of improved health and fitness, sports participation cultivates confidence, self-discipline, and a sense of belonging within a community. Whether competing individually or as part of a team, Year 5 and Year 6 students discover the value of perseverance, develop leadership skills, and experience the joy of moving their bodies with purpose and intention. Gala day will be in Term Two and we look forward to showing off our new skills in some healthy competition with other schools!



# THANK YOU!

Thank you all of your support and for taking the time to read about some of our learning this term!

We look forward to sharing more with you in the next edition!

