



NEWSLETTER TERM 3 2026

Principal Judy's Term Three Reflections

Thank you for supporting us as we continue moving forward on our path to becoming a Global Centre of Excellence in Alternative Education! Our students are being inspired to grow and develop their understanding, knowledge and skills, so they can become world leaders, peace makers and changemakers.

Your children are growing up to be empathetic, resilient and environmentally conscious, thanks to programs like Inner Me, The Resilience Project, Creekulum, Roots and Shoots, and Gather and Grow. Through these programs, your children develop key life skills such as determination, creative and critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective collaboration and communication.

What a busy term this has been!

Inner Me: A big "Thank you!" to Kamala for the beautiful specialist sessions of meditation and Yoga at Inner Me that she provides, along with leading the inspirational Whole School Circles every Monday afternoon.

The Creekulum Program: (created and led by Alieta), has become a highly popular program within our school.

This unique unit invites children to visit our stunning local creek and discover their own "magic spot", a place where they can pause, observe, reflect, and build a deeper connection with the natural world around them. By revisiting the same space over time, students are encouraged to tune in with their senses and notice the subtle changes that occur through weather, movement, sounds, light, and disturbances in the environment.

Creekulum encourages children to be curious, mindful, observant and feel at home in nature. It offers them wonderful chances to pause, connect and learn from the creek and everything around it. Thank you, Alieta!

Book Week! What a wonderful Book Week - probably the best I have ever been involved in! A big thank you to Pira who encouraged us all to get involved.

Camps: Both Years 1, 2, 3 and 4, 5 camps this term were a great success and lots of fun for everyone! A big thank you to all those involved in the planning and running of the camps.



The Roots and Shoots: project has had students and parents meeting in the Lillypilly House on Tuesday afternoons.

Roots and Shoots is a global children and youth program that was launched by Jane Goodall over 30 years ago. It's about implementing self-selected projects in our own community with tens of thousands of participants in the 65 countries. Roots and Shoots connects children and youth of all ages who share the common desire to create a better world.

Our students have created an aerial view of their school showing animals, plants and trees, and structures that make up our 'community'. The students have placed sensor cameras in various parts of the school to see what animals are found. The first project they have chosen, is to try to improve the number of butterflies seen in our 'community.' The students wrote letters to the Barung Native Nursery in Maleny to ask what plants we should buy to attract butterflies. The students will fundraise to buy the plants, vines and trees. A very big 'Thank you' to Angie and her parents, Chocy and Ben who started this awesome program! Ben is also leading the creation of a bush trail behind the Gather and Grow Village for us to explore. Thank you, Ben!

Gather and Grow Village: Our Gather & Grow Open mornings on 19th July, 16th August and 6th September 2026 were huge successes! Families enjoyed cooking damper, cheese scones and sipping fruit Glögg. We hammered, nailed, stirred, tasted, painted, experimented with Short Wave radio (thank you, Jarol!) and much more! Best of all, we had time to yarn and laugh! The two hours were always over and done with far too soon and it was agreed; a great time was had by all. The next Open Morning is on Sunday 25th October 10:00am-12noon. All welcome. Reminder: All students need to have covered footwear to work in the Tinkeringshed, whittling and around the fire. We have made shelving to store boots and old shoes. Please feel free to donate old children's shoes and boots that be used when students forget their own.

Olympics: We had a highly successful and fun filled Olympics this term with some very impressive high and long jump results and the same for the sprints and shotput. The relays were the highlight of the day with everyone participating! A big thank you to all those involved for making the day the great success it was!

Adult Movement, Pilates and Yoga: A big "Thank you!" to Angie's mum Chocy, who ran a 5 week program of Adult Movement, Pilates and Yoga for parents and teachers on Friday mornings at 7:30, while I supervised their children cooking pancakes up at G&G.



The Lions Peace poster: The Lions Club in conjunction with Alieta held the annual Peace Poster competition. For over three decades Lions clubs around the globe sponsor this, to give children the chance to express their visions of peace & inspire the world through art & creativity. This year, Jude's poster was selected to represent our school in the next round. Well done, Jude!

ASDAN: Students continue to work on their ASDAN portfolios and have had the opportunity to complete many of their individually chosen challenges.

Reminder: We remain on course to completing our ASDAN portfolios to and to take them to England next September (2027). This means it's time to start saving! The onus is on the families to raise enough money to fund themselves, however, we will be working hard to fundraise to reduce the burden. We will probably be the only primary school at least in Australia, if not globally, to complete the ASDAN Life Skills Award!

In classrooms: This term, the students have split time between explicit teaching and learning and enjoying time outdoors and down at the creek.

Teachers: Again, I want to thank the most dedicated, professional and amazing staff that we are blessed with at The River School! The work they all do with the children is unique, exquisite and the subsequent relationships are simply remarkable.

Support Staff: A big "Thank you!" for all our Support Staff; whether they are in the classrooms, admin, grounds, buildings or helping out in the Gather and Grow Village - Their hard work, help and support is appreciated and valued. Without our support staff - we are nothing!

Families: Thank you too, to the families who continue to give of their precious time and energy to support our school and children's education in so many different ways.

Next term: We have lots of fun and exciting things in the works and it will be yet another busy and fulfilling term for all. To note; we are playing to host some of the students from Blackall Range Independent School for a day of soccer and hand ball. We are also starting our worldwide pen pal venture with several contact points already established. We have our swimming program starting in week 4 and our annual Spring Fair is on Saturday 17th October.

So, there we are! There's much to do and look forward to!

Remember: Do not underestimate the importance of your role in your children's education. You are invited and welcome to be involved in your child's learning journey here at school. Simply speak to your student's teacher on how best you can be involved. I wish you a well-deserved and safe holiday and look forward to welcoming you back for the final term of 2026.

On behalf of everyone at The River school, thank you for your continued love and support, and we look forward to working with you again in Term 4.

With love,
Judy AKA Nana Bear
(and occasionally as Paddington Bear)



Student Wellness Officer update

During Term 3, Arion worked with the Student Council (now run during lunchtimes) to discuss and plan future events for our students to enjoy!

This was the first full term that our President, Blake Miller, and Vice President, Jack Dekker, had the pleasure of leading! While the club has decided in fact that their leaders will henceforth be known as Cucumber and Zucchini, with the rest of the council being referred to STRICTLY as Pickles (I have been corrected numerous times) , it seems we have a happy and full jar of student councillors!

Next term we will reopen Student Council so that new Pickles may join, and we aim to hold a School Disco again, as well as a Handball Tournament and Soccer match against Blackall Range Independent School. Keep an eye on this space!

First Day of Term 4
Tuesday 6th
October

Prep OPEN evening
4:00 - 5:00pm
Tuesday 6th October

SPRING FAIR
Saturday 17th October
10:00am - 2:00pm

Gather & Grow
Open Morning
Sunday 25th Oct.

Open School Tour
Tuesday 27th
October 9:00am

Maleny Music Festival
6th - 8th November: A
River Cafe fundraiser!

Open School Tour
Tuesday 17th
November 9:00am

Last Day of Term 4
Friday 11th
December

WE ARE PUGGLES ~ YEAR PREP!

What a fantastic term of learning it has been for the Puggles. In Term 3 we have loved learning about different animals from around the world and exploring the continents they call home.

The children were fascinated by the different environments, landmarks, and endangered animals we discovered. We also learnt about the simple steps we can take to help care for and protect our planet. The Puggles worked hard to create informative posters and shared their growing knowledge with the school. We also celebrated our very first Book Week, which was a highlight for many of the children. They loved dressing up as their favourite book characters and sharing their love of stories and reading with one another.

Our Creekulum learning connected beautifully with our Science unit as we explored the plants and animals living around our school and beautiful creek. We observed their features, discussed how living things can be grouped and developed a deeper appreciation for the natural world around us. Another highlight of the term was participating in our very first School Olympics, where the Puggles proudly demonstrated their developing athletic skills, teamwork and sportsmanship. In Mathematics, we continued to build strong foundation skills while exploring number concepts, measurement, position and location, and Australian currency. The children particularly enjoyed learning about coins and their values through hands-on activities and play-based learning experiences. It has been wonderful to see how much the children have grown in confidence, knowledge and independence. We are incredibly proud of everything that the Puggles have achieved.



Kind regards,
Rob



Kingfisher Class Years 1 & 2



A FABULOUS term 3 in the Kingfisher room with our Year 1 and 2 students.

Ending term with a school camp is always a great opportunity to celebrate with each other and connect with families and friends in a fun way. House of Happiness certainly offered that chance for us all. We ran, swam, jumped, played, bowled, batted, swung and ate. The food was amazing – thanks Pira!!

A successful school camp only happens when the group unites, and everyone works together to share kindness and caring whilst having fun.

This has been the thread of all our term's work – being kind to each other, and to self. In our integrated unit of work Listening to Country, we have learned perspective taking and the valuable lesson of caring for the land around us. The children shared some incredible insight into this deep understanding, and one can only hope that this kindness becomes their default as they grow into worldly citizens. That's one of our key focuses at The River School – to help grow kind, caring and informed humans. It's an honour and a pleasure to work with children and families who are on this journey.

In regard to our academic work, we have improved our reading skills, increased our mathematical knowledge and understanding, tested hypotheses in science regarding properties of materials, and then challenged ourselves to weave looms and baskets. Learning about Uluru and its significance to the Anangu people of the Central Desert has sparked some fabulous conversations and demonstrated deep understanding and compassion, not to mention some good factual knowledge and research skills.



Kingfisher Class Years 1 & 2

Olympics training and our special day were well celebrated by all who attended and it was great to see children challenge themselves for individual improvements. Well done everyone. And the costumes and creativity of many Book Week characters was impressive.

We have welcomed new friends and have to say goodbye to other friends as circumstances change for families. We are always so sad to see our Kingfishers leave the River School and wish them all the best on the next part of their learning journey. Good luck Arlo and Bonnie on your new adventures. We hope to see you at the Spring Fair and Café Nights. (Remember - once a River School student.... always a River School student!)

For a short term we certainly have packed a lot in. Thank you to all our families for your support and input, and we wish you a happy and safe holiday, with special time spent with your amazing children.

See you next term,
Mary and Julia



Piccabeens - Year 3

WATTLES - YEAR 4



This term has been a rich and rewarding period of social, emotional, and academic growth for the Piccabeen and Wattle students. I have seen encouraging advancement in the students' ability to work together, communicate respectfully, manage their emotions, and develop greater self-awareness, independence, and resilience. Through Creek Meditation time, mindfulness practices, neuroscience-based exercises and purposeful life-skills activities, students have been developing practical strategies to regulate themselves, refocus and respond positively to challenges. These experiences have been particularly valuable for our diverse learners. We have also embraced physical wellbeing through yoga, movement, coordination, strength, and fitness activities, creating opportunities for students to develop both physical confidence and cognitive readiness for learning.

Academically, students have engaged enthusiastically in a broad, stimulating, and challenging program. In Mathematics, students have participated in interesting and hands-on mathematical experiences that have encouraged them to think deeply, explore ideas, investigate patterns, solve problems, and explain their reasoning. Using concrete materials, discussion, exploration and challenging mathematical tasks, students have been encouraged to become active thinkers rather than simply passive recipients of information.

Our engagement with rich literature and increasingly challenging texts has also provided important opportunities to strengthen text-processing skills and cognitive thinking. Students have been encouraged to make text-to-text, text-to-self and text-to-world connections, infer meaning, question ideas, explore different perspectives and develop their ability to think critically about what they read. These skills are particularly important as our children prepare for a future that will require them to be flexible thinkers, thoughtful problem-solvers, discerning readers and confident decision-makers.

In HASS, our Guardians of the Forests study has explored deforestation, environmental responsibility, and our relationship with the natural world.

In Science, students have investigated states of matter, particles and chemical and physical changes through exciting, hands-on experiments that have encouraged curiosity, questioning and scientific thinking. In

English, students have developed their ability to express opinions and construct persuasive arguments, particularly through the deliberate use of high-modality language, while also exploring important life skills such as confidence, responsibility, compassion and making thoughtful choices.

Throughout the term, I have aimed to provide engaging, purposeful, and high-quality pedagogy, combining explicit teaching with hands-on learning, mathematical exploration, rich literature, movement, discussion, creativity, outdoor experiences, (on the playground, at the creek) and plenty of humour and fun! It has been wonderful to see students becoming increasingly curious, capable, confident, critical, and connected learners, developing the skills, understanding and self-awareness they will need to embrace the changing and exciting times ahead.

Looking forward to term four,

Anne-Renee, Rachel & Neu.



Wattle's
YEAR 3



Red Cedars - Year 6

REGENTS ~ YEAR 5

A term of stepping up and sharing our caring and skills as school leaders!

Red Cedar students, organised and run the Trivia night h was a fabulous fundraiser for their end of year celebrations. It was attended by many families (*including a table of very proud mumma's and nanna's*) and the Regent students had fun competing and witnessing what they will be apart of next year when the are the school leaders.



Both Red Cedar and Regent students have also helped the younger students feel confident in their skills, and locations as they practiced for the school Olympics. On the day they encouraged every one to participate in their warm up routine.

It was so fun to see the older students and their Book week characters and a reminder that we are never to old for fun!

With only one more term left in the Red Cedar Primary education we begin to reflect on all teh fun they have had and all the adventures to come.





Creek-ulum With Alieta

