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Emerson Newsletter

Issue 11 · 24 Apr 2026

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Dates to Remember

April

- 20th - First Day of Term 2
- 25th - ANZAC Day

May

- 14th - Inter House Music Festival

June

- 8th - King's Birthday Public Holiday
- 18th - SSG Meetings
- 26th - End of Term 2
 - Middle School Campus finishes at 1:45pm - Buses have been notified
 - Jnr/Snr School Campus finishes at 2:00pm - Buses have been notified

July

- 13th - First Day of Term 3

2026 Victorian school term dates

2026	Start date	Finish date
Term 2	20 April	26 June
Term 3	13 July	18 September
Term 4	5 October	18 December

2026 Curriculum Days

Term	Date
Two	To Be Advised
Three	To Be Advised
Four	To Be Advised



Principal's Report

By John Mooney

Welcome back to all students, staff and families to Term 2. It will be a ten week term full of learning achievements and experiences.

Congratulations to Omal for his outstanding High Jump performances at the National Athletics Championships held in Brisbane last weekend. He competed in the National U18 event. With a best performance of 1.85 metres, he finished in equal 10th place. He was the second best of jumpers from Victoria. This is an awesome performance.! Well done, Omal.

ANZAC Day 2026

Anzac Day occurs tomorrow, Saturday, 25th April. I encourage all students, staff and community members to pause a while on Saturday to remember with thanks, the brave 1.5 million Australians who have served in the Australian Armed Services over the last 130 years. Over 103,000 were killed and over 200,000 were wounded. War is a horrible thing.

Let us hope that peace and harmony can fill the world in the years ahead.



John Mooney

Principal



Value of the Fortnight

By Dianne Wright - Middle School Principal

We will continue exploring the value of **Courage** next week.

Tomorrow is **Anzac Day**, an important moment for all Australians to pause and reflect on the courage, discipline and self-sacrifice shown by the thousands of Australians who served in times of war.

More than 100,000 men and women made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives so that we can enjoy the freedoms and way of life we have today.

On Anzac Day, we remember the 1915 Gallipoli landings of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC), and we honour all Australian personnel who have served and died in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

The Anzac spirit continues to live on in the hearts and minds of Australians as we acknowledge the bravery and sacrifice of those who helped shape our national identity.

At today's whole-school assembly, our one minute of silence symbolised our deep respect and gratitude for every soldier, sailor and airman who has worn the Australian Defence Force uniform.

Lest we forget.



25TH APRIL

Anzac day

lest we forget



Free Dental

The Australian Smile Group will be offering dental services to Emerson students from Week 4 in Term 2.

Australian Smile Group Dental Service provide comprehensive dental care programs designed specifically for educational institutions. They provide on-site dental examinations, preventive treatments, and oral health education for students of all ages and they will be bringing their mobile van to Emerson School.

Routine dental services such as cleaning, x-rays, fillings and extractions will be covered under Medicare Bulk Billing.

Consent forms will be sent home in the first week of the new term.

Jenny La'Brooy.

Student Services / Disability Inclusion



Warin-bik Camp at Blackwood

Some of our Koorie students recently attended a four-day camp at Blackwood, where they gained a deeper understanding of First Nations peoples—their culture, traditions, and the ways they cared for and celebrated Country.

We were fortunate to partner with Mildura Specialist School, sharing much of the experience together, including cabin accommodation. During our downtime, students built connections through games of footy, shooting hoops, and making use of the on-site play equipment.

On the first day, both schools walked from the cabin area to the main activity centre, where we were welcomed with a traditional Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony. It was a meaningful experience, with the host explaining the significance of the smoke and the native plants used—an excellent cultural refresher for all.

Following this, students split into school groups. Emerson and Mildura collaborated on an art project, sketching Aboriginal-inspired designs before transferring them onto beautifully grained parquetry wood. Once painted, the pieces were dried, assembled, and lacquered, creating lasting keepsakes.

Each afternoon included free time before dinner, allowing students to further connect with their cabin mates. Meals were a highlight of the camp—generous and delicious at every sitting, from breakfast through to dinner—ensuring no one went hungry.

That evening, we met Uncle Ron Murray, a remarkable storyteller who quickly captured everyone's attention. He shared stories about native animals, traditional clothing, and dance, along with videos of ceremonies he has been part of. A standout moment was listening to the "Treaty" song together—it was a powerful and memorable experience. Uncle Ron also played the didgeridoo beautifully, which was a real treat. The session ran well over time, as no one wanted it to end.

Tuesday began with students creating traditional bush toys with Aunty Marg, using materials like straw and string to reflect what would have been used in the past. Many crafted animals or reptiles, while Kai impressively made an Olympic torch.

Later, students participated in a session on native plants and their uses. They learned how First Nations peoples utilised plants for food and medicine, and explored the diversity of local flora. During a bush walk, students collected samples to examine under microscopes. A highlight was tasting native plants and comparing them to familiar flavours—one leaf even tasted like a blend of pepper and chilli.

In the afternoon, students met native animals up close. The presenter shared detailed knowledge about each animal, and students were excited to learn their names and, in many cases, touch or hold them. The kangaroo was a clear favourite, followed closely by the snake.

After afternoon tea, students tackled a low ropes obstacle course, which challenged their balance and strength. It was fantastic to see everyone give it a go and celebrate their achievements with big smiles.

Following dinner, Emerson students took on kitchen duties. Working together efficiently, they handled rinsing, stacking, washing, and drying—guided by Mr Bowen’s experience from his time working in a pizza shop. The evening continued with a session on megafauna, followed by stargazing and marshmallow toasting around the campfire—an experience enjoyed by all.

Before heading home, students also participated in an archaeology activity, carefully excavating “bones” using brushes, scoops, and trowels, just like in a real dig. They then worked to identify their findings. By the end of the day, everyone returned to the cabins exhausted but fulfilled.

Wednesday morning began with breakfast and some casual games before a quick visit to the local mineral springs. Students had the chance to taste the mineral water—an interesting experience that wasn’t to everyone’s liking! The day’s first session focused on Aboriginal tools—their creation, uses, and regional differences across Australia. Students learned that the didgeridoo originated in northern Australia and explored cultural perspectives around its use, including differing beliefs between regions.

Later, students participated in traditional games that tested their skills, teamwork, and resilience. A favourite was the “cat and mouse” game, which required strong cooperation.

In the afternoon, students created spirit cleansers (similar to dream catchers). Although challenging, they persevered and were proud of their creations, with many planning to hang them in their rooms or gift them to family. Archery followed, offering both fun and a strong

focus on safety. Students and staff alike enjoyed the activity, with many improving significantly on their second attempt—especially after figuring out the correct equipment to use! That evening, we thanked kitchen staff Rose and Jaime for their incredible meals and warm hospitality throughout the camp.

The final activity was a traditional dance session, which was engaging and inclusive. Students gained a deeper appreciation for the meaning behind the movements. The night concluded with a sharing circle, where each participant spoke about where they were from and what they had enjoyed most about the camp. As we were leaving early the next morning, arrangements were made for students to complete their beaded necklaces back at school during Thursday morning mob sessions. Before bed, everyone worked together to tidy the cabins in preparation for departure.

On the final morning, we packed up, had breakfast, and said our goodbyes. It was great to see Tony and Will come by to farewell the group. The camp was clearly a success—the students didn't want to leave and were already asking about returning next year.

A special thank you to the camp organisers and staff for providing such a meaningful and memorable experience, as well as the commemorative shirts that will help us remember it. Also, our own Emerson Staff for making it happen, Thomas Hutching, Sam LG and Lincoln Bowen.







SSF Latte Art Training

SSF recently completed a Latte Art Certificate training course held in the city over a 4 hour session. SSF, as a class, successfully completed the course where we were introduced to a range of different patterns and techniques.

Under guided instruction we all had the opportunity to practice classic latte art designs including hearts, tulips, rosettas, and swans. The class also incorporated travel education as part of the experience by learning how to navigate our way to the city location.

This course further developed the skills and knowledge we gained from our ABC of Espresso Making course completed at William Angliss Institute, building our confidence and skill in coffee preparation.

Elaine Gleeson

SSF Teacher





SSSSA Athletics Day 2026

Our students had a fantastic day at the SSSSA Athletics Carnival, held on Friday 13th March at Ringwood Athletics Track.

SSSSA (Southern Special Schools Sports Association) provides students with the opportunity to compete in interschool sporting events throughout the year. It was great to see so many students getting involved, competing across a range of events and giving their best throughout the day.

Across the carnival, Emerson students achieved:

22 x 1st place finishes

15 x 2nd place finishes

14 x 3rd place finishes

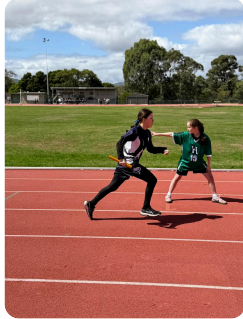
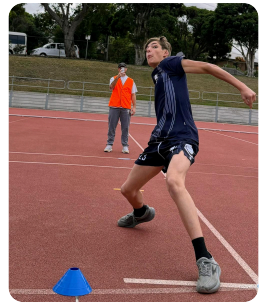
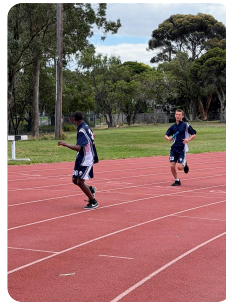
In total, 40+ students competed across track and field events

A major highlight of the day was the relays. Emerson had an outstanding result — winning 5 out of 6 relays, with the remaining team finishing 2nd. Looking ahead, students will continue their training as we build towards upcoming School Sport Victoria (SSV) and All Schools Athletics events, with pathways progressing through district, regional and state level competitions later in the year.

A big thank you to all staff who assisted on the day — marshalling events, supporting students, and helping everything run smoothly. Your support made a huge difference!

It was a highly successful day with plenty of strong performances and great results across all age groups.

Well done to all students who competed and represented Emerson!





Student Achievements

National Athletics Championships

Over two weekends in April, 2024 Graduate Cain Christie and current student Omal Theodoro represented Glenhuntly Athletics Club and Victoria at the National Championships in Sydney and Brisbane, respectively.

Cain competed in the Open Ambulant Long Jump. Cain jumped 5.16m to finish 12th in an international field of 18 athletes, with representatives from Sri Lanka and New Zealand. Cain was the 10th Australian and 2nd in the T20 (intellectual disability) classification.

Omal competed in the U18 Long Jump. Omal cleared 1.85m to finish equal 10th and 2nd Victorian. Omal had a fantastic start to the competition, clearing 1.70m, 1.75m, 1.80m and 1.85m on his first attempt. Omal had three gallant attempts at 1.90m, his current personal best, but narrowly missed on each occasion. Omal was supported on the day by his cousin who lives in Brisbane.

Both Cain and Omal were proud of their efforts and grateful for the support of Glenhuntly Athletics Club who awarded them both with a grant to cover some of their costs.

Chris Winter – Athletics & Cross Country Coach



THINGS TO DO

Community Activities, Events and Tickets

Open to performers aged 12-25

DANDY'S GOT TALENT PERFORMER APPLICATIONS



Keen to perform live?
We are currently accepting performer applications from singers, rappers, dancers and bands.
Applications close 31 May.

Final showcase:
Thursday 9 July
2.30pm - 7pm
The Castle
61 Princes Hwy
Dandenong

Prizes to be won








Greater Dandenong

Apply to perform here

Greater Dandenong Youth and Family Services
 39 Clow Street, Dandenong
 (03) 8571 1620 | [cgdyouthservices](https://www.facebook.com/cgdyouthservices)
youthservices@cgd.vic.gov.au
[youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](https://www.youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au)

TTY: 133 677
 Speak and listen:
 1300 656 727
 TIS: 13 14 50

We are proudly drug, alcohol, smoke and vape free





Amplify is a Victorian Government initiative that supports young Victorians to plan and run drug, alcohol, vape and smoking-free events for other young people. Image supplied by Star News Group



Sports Stars

JSE	Rahul S
JSK	Eliza E-W
MSE	Tyler Z
MSF	Alisa T
SSC	Nesali D
SSV	Jasper M-M





Bus Awards

Term 2, Week 1 Awards

Endeavour Hills	Deacon N
Narre Warren	Yahya S
Cranbourne	
Pakenham	
Noble Park	
Dandenong	

Congratulations!



Announcements

Foodbank Mobile Supermarket

Foodbank will operate a "Mini Supermarket" from North Dandenong Neighbourhood Centre, providing much-needed food relief to Emerson School Families.

Families can choose from a selection of dairy, bread, fruit, vegetables and other healthy food staples.

Emerson Families can pick up a voucher from the office of either Campus, the voucher will need to be presented at the Foodbank Mobile Supermarket.

The Mobile Supermarket will be held at the Dandenong North Neighbourhood Centre, 41 Menzies Ave, Dandenong North.

Dates:

- *Tuesday 19 May*



CSEF Applications are now open for 2026.

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) provide payments for eligible students to attend activities like school camp or trips, swimming and school organised sport programs, outdoor education programs and/or excursions and incursions.

Parents with an eligible government Pension, Veteran Affairs or Health Care Card can apply.

If you have already claimed CSEF at Emerson, you will not need to re-apply in 2026.



2026 Youth MYKI Card

During 2026, select students will participate in the Travel Education Program. Students will travel on PTV and require a MYKI card.

\$5.00 annual Youth MYKI cards are available to all students under 18 years old. Families will be required to purchase a MYKI card for each child.

Click on the following [Youth Myki link](#) to purchase the MYKI online, OR, go to a manned Train Station to purchase the card. Once purchased, all travel is FREE. If you order the MYKI online, the Myki card will be posted to your home with your child's name printed on the card. This saves confusion of who the card belongs to.

If you are having any challenges with buying a MYKI card or registering the MYKI please email Christine.marlow@education.vic.gov.au and I would be happy to make a time to assist you.

Remember to check the Compass portal for permissions for your child to attend excursions.

Compass keeps all information current which is best for your child for medical information, emergency contacts, etc. Compass makes it quick and easy for parents and staff. Please ask the office if you need help using Compass.

Kind regards,

Christine Marlow

Travel and Road Safety Education

Emerson School



Important Reminders

School Start and Finish times

We kindly remind all parents and guardians to please ensure that children are dropped off and picked up within our school's operating hours. Arriving on time helps children settle into their day, attend all of their classes, and maintain continuity in their learning.

Timely pick-up at the end of the day is equally important, as it allows us to operate safely and responsibly within our scheduled hours. Your cooperation plays a vital role in supporting your child's education and ensuring a smooth day for everyone.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

JNR/SNR Campus		Middle Campus	
Monday	9:00am - 3:00pm	Monday	9:00am - 2:45pm
Tuesday	9:00am - 3:00pm	Tuesday	9:00am - 2:45pm
Wednesday	9:00am - 3:00pm	Wednesday	9:00am - 2:45pm
Thursday	8:50am - 3:00pm	Thursday	8:50am - 2:45pm
Friday	8:50am - 3:00pm	Friday	8:50am - 2:45pm

**Please note—THURSDAY morning is Houses and FRIDAY morning is Assembly
Both ARE held at the MIDDLE SCHOOL Campus**

Collecting Students during the day

We kindly remind all parents and guardians to please ensure that you avoid collecting your child/children during the below recess and lunch times.

Junior School	Junior School
Monday - Friday	Recess 10:30am-11:00am Lunch Eating Time 12:30pm - 12:45pm Outside Play 12:45pm-1:30pm

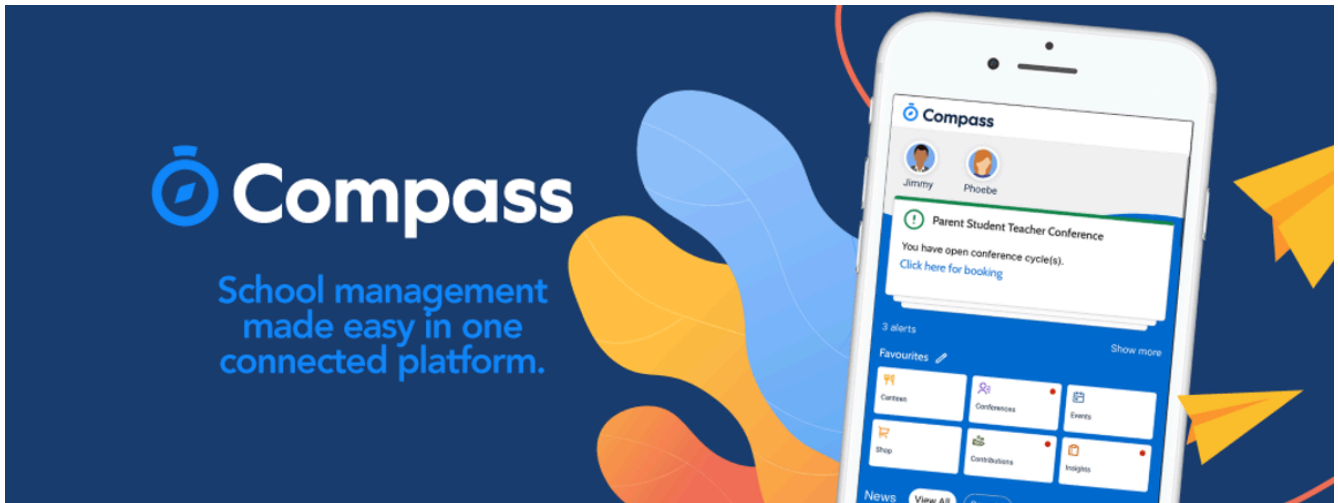
Middle School	
Monday - Friday	Recess 10:30am-11:00am Lunch Eating Time 12:30pm - 12:45pm Outside Play 12:45pm-1:15pm

Senior School	
Monday	Recess 10:30am - 11:00am Lunch Eating Time 12:30pm - 12:45pm Outside Play 12:45pm - 1:30pm
Tuesday - Friday	Recess 11:15am - 11:45am Lunch Eating Time 1:15pm - 1:30pm Outside Play 1:30pm - 2:15pm



Subway orders are available to students each week on a Wednesday.

There are special Subway envelopes available at the office of either campus. Please fill in details with the correct money included and hand these to the Office any time before **Tuesday 10:00 am each week.**



Compass

Emerson School will be no longer sending home paper consent forms and instead will be using the Compass Management System.

All Parents and carers of Emerson School now have access to the Compass School Management app and can now access the following features.

- Monitor your child's attendance, and enter an explanation for absence or lateness
- Download and view your child's academic reports
- Pay and provide consent for events such as excursions and camps, and pay school fees

You can download the Compass App on Apple iOS and Android devices, simply search for Compass School Manager in the store.



Access the website via the Emerson School [Website](#) page.

Access the website by searching the following link in your browser,

<https://schools.compass.education/>

Please contact the school if you need assistance with replacement log in details, logging in or resetting your password.

Jnr / Snr School - 9791 8900

Middle School - 8762 6466