

"ACHIEVING TOGETHER"



Woody Yaloak Primary School

Website: www.woodyyaloak.vic.edu.au
 Email: woody.yaloak.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Principal: Corey Pohlner
 Phone: 5342 8565

- 2025 Term Dates**
- 28th Jan - 4th April
 - 22nd Apr - 4th July
 - 21st July - 19th Sept
 - 4th Oct - 19th Dec

Smythesdale Campus 5342 8565
Scarsdale Campus 5342 8514

Snake Valley Campus 5344 9274
Ross Creek Campus 5342 0478

FOR YOUR DIARY 2025

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 10th

- Book Week Whole School Performance at Ross Creek

Thursday 11th

- Grade 2 Sleepover
- Division Athletics at Llanberris

Wed 17th - Friday 19th

- Gr 5/6 Camp at Roses Gap

Friday 19th

- Last day of term 2

OCTOBER

MONDAY 6th

- First Day of Term 4

**PERMISSION FORMS
AND
MONEY DUE**

SEPTEMBER 2025

Due WEDNESDAY 3RD

- 5/6 Roses Gap Camp Consent, Medical Form and Payment **DUE**

- Yr 2 Sleepover \$6.00 payment **DUE**

Due THURSDAY 4TH

- Division Athletics \$5.00

Due FRIDAY 5th

- Book Week Whole School Performance \$14



Woody Yaloak Primary School was formed on the lands of the Wadawarrung people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging. We also acknowledge the First Nations people throughout Victoria.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

For nearly nine years, our school has been committed not only to providing the best learning conditions to help every child reach their full academic potential, but also to creating an environment where students learn about themselves and others through their behaviours and interactions. Many schools still use traditional teaching methods and an old-school mindset when it comes to understanding student needs. At our school, we have taken a different path, working collaboratively across teams to improve learning and wellbeing.

Our *School Improvement Teams* focus on three key areas:

Literacy
 Numeracy
 Wellbeing

Today, I want to highlight our work in the area of *wellbeing*.

You might have heard the terms *neurodivergent* and *neurodiverse* and wondered what they mean. These words are becoming more common in education, but people often confuse them.

Neurodivergent means a person's brain works differently from typical brains. This can lead to unique strengths and challenges. It includes people with autism, ADHD, dyslexia, and others—but it's not always about a formal diagnosis.

Neurodiverse describes a group of people with different types of brains and ways of thinking. For example, a classroom may include mostly neurotypical students and some neurodivergent students.

Traditionally, neurodivergent students might have been seen as "different," which sometimes led to misunderstandings or negative labels like "misbehaving."

At our school, we have been on a journey to learn, educate, and adjust how we teach to support all learning styles.

We provide support through a *three-tier system*:

Tier 1: Whole school programs and strategies for all students

Tier 2: Small group programs designed for students with specific needs

Tier 3: Individualized, one-on-one support for students requiring more specialized assistance

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Last week, some of our staff attended professional development for a program called **Social Stencil**. This Australian, evidence-based initiative helps students learn about themselves and others by building core social and emotional skills like:

- Friendship concepts (making and keeping friends)
- Conflict management strategies (calm-down techniques, negotiation)
- Social problem-solving (identifying problems and brainstorming solutions)

This program helps create respectful and inclusive classroom communities.

Unstructured times like recess and lunch can be challenging for some students, especially those whose brains work differently. Our playground has different social groups and scenarios, such as:

- Large groups playing together
- Students moving between groups
- Small tight groups or pairs
- Students who play alone

These groupings can change quickly depending on who is there and who chooses to play where. Understanding different friendship styles and teaching conflict and emotion management skills helps students navigate these situations better.

At Woody, we focus on understanding every student's needs and teaching them how to work together—not to make everyone the same. We teach friendship skills, conflict management, and emotional regulation to build a more inclusive school culture.

Child safety and wellbeing

Woody Yaloak Primary School is committed to providing an environment where students are safe and feel safe.

Our child safety framework includes policies, codes and procedures that explain how we support and maintain the safety and wellbeing of our students and protect them from harm. These documents are available on our website.

We are also committed to continuous improvement of our child safety framework. We are currently reviewing our child safety policies and practices to ensure they are up-to-date and effective. Our students and families are important partners in this process.

We welcome your feedback or ideas on ways we can improve our approach to child safety and wellbeing.

We hope this gives you insight into the important, behind-the-scenes work we do to support your child's wellbeing and learning at our school.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact me, Mr Johnson, Mr Cox, or any of the campus heads.

Thanks for reading

Corey Pohlner
Principal

Regards
Corey Pohlner

Principal
Woody Yaloak Primary School

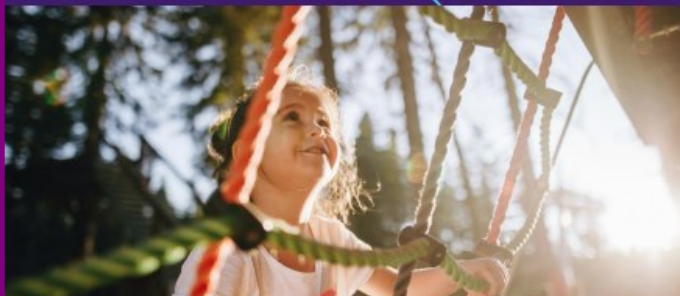


Woody Yaloak OSH Club

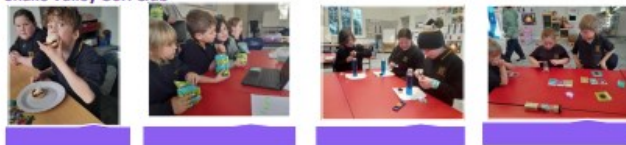
Newsletter

August 2025

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Snake Valley OSH Club



It's been a wonderfully busy and creative term here at Snake Valley OSH!

Over the past four weeks, the children have been part of our Creative Sparks program, a fun and inspiring journey designed to ignite imagination and creative thinking. One of the highlights this week was making sea-themed glitter bottles. Using blue water and glitter of their choice, the kids created their own magical ocean scenes in a bottle, each one unique and full of personality.

We've also been very busy in the kitchen! The children have been sharing their favourite recipes, and together we've made delicious treats like flatbreads, blueberry and banana slices, and lemonade scones. And that's just the beginning, we're compiling all these wonderful creations into our very own Snake Valley OSH Recipe Book, coming soon!

The rainy weather gave us the perfect opportunity to explore new indoor games. The kids had a blast learning how to play Chinese Checkers, Chicken Butt, Monopoly, and Deal or No Deal. Once the sunshine returned, they were straight back outside enjoying Gaga, building sand sculptures, and making the most of the playground.

Music has been a big part of our days too. We've been dancing along to Just Dance, with each child getting a turn to choose their favourite songs, a great way to keep active and have fun together.

And of course, we've been enjoying plenty of delicious food along the way. Mornings have started off warm and cozy with pancakes and hot chocolate, while snacks have included crowd favourites like pinkwheels, wraps, and sausage rolls.

Mon-Fri 3-6pm

oshclub.com.au
1300 395 735

Woody Yaloak OSH Club

Newsletter

August 2025

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Smythesdale OSH Club

Welcome Back to Term Three!

What a fantastic and busy start to the term it has been! The group has hit the ground running, diving into a world of creativity, curiosity, and hands-on exploration.

We've been bursting into all things explosions — from egg-splodions and sand volcanoes to cloud dough, growing Orbeez, edible jelly slime, and even moon rock explosions! These exciting experiments have sparked plenty of wonder and discovery in our learning space.

This term also marks the exciting launch of our Creative Sparks Club! The children have embraced their artistic side with enthusiasm, creating vibrant splatter paintings and colourful shaving cream murals. It's been amazing to see so much imagination in action!

Science has been a big focus too, with a collaborative group project centred around designing and constructing boats that float. After lots of research, planning, problem-solving, and teamwork — success! Well done to everyone involved for your persistence and creativity.

Looking Ahead:

There's still so much to look forward to! Our Creative Sparks Club will continue into the term with high-energy fun like Just Dance sessions and dance battles, bringing movement and music into our afternoons. And to wrap up the month of August, we'll be diving into activities like comic book/strip making and DIY bookmaking — perfect for young storytellers and illustrators.

As we head into the latter part of the term, the group will shift into our Engineers Workshops, where children will put their problem-solving skills to the test with hands-on challenges such as:

- Maze building
- Waterproofing experiments
- Balloon rocket launches
- Design and logic puzzles

...just to name a few!

It's shaping up to be a term full of excitement, learning, and creativity — and we'd love for you to join the adventure.

Bookings can be made online anytime via our website: oshclub.com.au

Let's keep the fun going all term long!



Mon-Fri 3-6pm

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Woody Yaloak OSH Club

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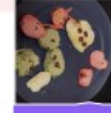
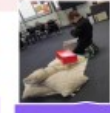
Ross Creek OSH Club

This term at Ross Creek OSH Club, we've been doing a wide variety of both baking and non-baking food preparation activities once a week. Some of our delicious creations have included lemon slice, muffins, golfballs, beef and vegetable lasagne, sushi, pizzas, nachos, French toast, banana-choc toasted wraps, yoghurt and fruit cones, and pancakes!

Some other popular activities this term have included:

- Christmas In July themed activities
- Making lemon cordial
- Running outdoor sports
- Having an apple eating competition
- Using melty beads
- Making wool octopuses
- Learning about other languages and cultures
- Doing 'Just Dance' activities
- Making slime
- Making ribbons for gymnastics
- Making treasure chests
- Creating self portraits

We are eager to see what the rest of the term holds!



Scarsdale OSH Club

In the last few weeks at Scarsdale OSH Club, we have been running our Creative Sparks program, designed to spark all children's sense of creativity in different areas of the Arts! For Visual Arts, we created colourful fire-breathing dragons out of paper tubes and streamers, made potato stamp prints and painted watercolour resist planets by dropping rubbing alcohol onto our designs to repel the watercolours and create various patterns. For Drama last week, we played The Expert, which came with a lot of laughter! In this game, one person (the 'expert') is given a random topic and the other person interviews them - the expert is considered to always be right, no matter how silly or outrageous what they say is! This week we are playing dance-themed games (including hula hooping whilst dancing).

We have continued Science Club regularly with experiments such as marshmallows under pressure, red cabbage as an acidity indicator and magnetic cereal. Other favourite activities have included baking choc-chip cookies and fairy cupcakes, making homemade butter, creating edible slime and mathematics logic puzzles.

In the mornings, the children have been doing a reading challenge for Book Week where they can score points by reading books and answering comprehension questions about what they are reading! They have also been enjoying playing a plastic axe-throwing game, enjoyed making sushi, doing STEM activities (such as magnetism), splat painting, quizzes and outdoor games.

Coming up: on Friday 5th September we will be running a Father's Day activity with the school, to make 3D Father's Day cards!



Playing 'The Expert'



Axe-throwing game



Marshmallows under pressure



Marshmallows under pressure



Making sushi

Mon-Fri 3-6pm

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SESSION 2: 10.30AM-12.30PM

SESSION 3: 1.15PM-3.15PM

CHILDREN AGED 4 - 12
MUST REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE
SCAN TO REGISTER

