

NEWSLETTER

TERM 4, 2025

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Last term, we had a range of special events and achievements across our school community. We celebrated Science Week, which sparked curiosity and hands-on learning, followed by Book Week, immersing students in the magic of stories and creativity. The hospital foyer was buzzing with activities, live performances, a butterfly enclosure and book readings. Many hospital staff also embraced the occasion by dressing up as their favourite book characters.

We also had the pleasure of sharing knowledge and connecting with colleagues during our visits to other Designated Purpose Schools. We were proud to have our Principal, Colin Dobson, and Assistant Principal, Kate Cooper, present at the Australian Association of Special Education (AASE) Conference, sharing innovative approaches to special education.

Many of our teaching staff also attended this event. In collaboration with Monash Children's Hospital, we are launching a new online school platform to support children's education during recovery periods when they are not yet medically cleared to return to the classroom. This initiative ensures continuity and care for our students' learning needs.

The community spirit of our staff shone through as we celebrated R U OK day to raise awareness about mental health and we embraced Indigenous Literacy Day, to celebrate and promote indigenous story and voice.

Thank you to everyone for making Term 3 meaningful and memorable!

Monash
Children's
Hospital
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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Term 3 was another exciting and rewarding chapter at Monash Children's Hospital School. Our staff embraced a range of professional learning opportunities, demonstrating their ongoing commitment to growth and collaboration. All staff participated in the visitation program, which brought colleagues from across the Designated Purpose Schools together to visit each other's sites and strengthen professional connections. The participating schools included Monash Children's Hospital School, Yalingboi/The Royal Children's Hospital School, The Austin, Travancore, YarraMe and Avenues Education. In addition, six of our staff members attended the Australian Association of Special Education Conference in Melbourne. The keynote presentations and workshops were both thought-provoking and insightful. Kate Cooper (Assistant Principal) presented a valuable workshop on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and its implications for classroom practice. I was also honoured to present the Des English Memorial Lecture, where I spoke about the importance of values, teamwork and leadership in achieving goals and aspirations.

I would like to extend my thanks to the staff of both Monash Children's Hospital and Monash Children's Hospital School for their enthusiastic involvement in Science Week and Book Week during August. These events were a true celebration of community and a reminder of the importance of aligning education and health in the lives of young people.



CONGRATULATIONS RUBY!

As part of this year's Book Week celebrations, we were delighted to welcome Ruby Cline, a Year 10 student. Alongside her studies, Ruby has been nurturing her passion for singing and playing the guitar. During her visit, she performed twice, first in the hospital foyer and later in the Starlight Room. Both performances were warmly received by patients, families, and staff, who appreciated the chance to enjoy live music in these special spaces. It was wonderful to see Ruby return and share her talents with our community. We congratulate her on her achievements so far and look forward to following her musical journey.

To see more, visit her Instagram page:
[@rubyc.line.](#)



MONASH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT:

Our school was buzzing with excitement during Book Week and Science Week! Staff and students alike got into the spirit, with many dressing up as their favourite book characters. A special thank you to Amazon Australia for donating books and costumes to give away on the day. The creativity and enthusiasm were truly contagious! Science Week turned our foyer into a hub of discovery, featuring fascinating experiments and hands-on activities that engaged curious minds of all ages. From exploring the wonders of science to being immersed in beloved stories, these two celebrations captivated learning and imagination of the students, and highlighted the wonderful community spirit of the hospital and school staff. A big thank you to everyone involved!



UPCOMING EVENTS

October:

- World Space Week - Oct 4 - Oct 10, 2025
- World Teachers' Day - Oct 5, 2025
- World Mental Health Day - Oct 10, 2025

November:

- World Kindness Day - Nov 13, 2025
- World Children's Day - Nov 20, 2025

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STAFF SPOTLIGHT: KATE COOPER

What is your role at MCHS?

Assistant Principal - Wellbeing and Inclusion.

How long have you been working at MCHS?

I was lucky enough to start at MCHS when the school opened in 2018. I began as a Leading Teacher of Wellbeing and feel so privileged to work alongside such an amazing team of educators.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

We work in a dynamic environment where no day is ever the same. There are so many things I enjoy about this job, but my favourite is seeing a smile on a child's face when we bring them something familiar—school. Being able to offer a sense of normality and a connection to a place they spend so much of their week is truly a privilege. Celebrating Book Week and Science Week, and organising incursions, brings a wonderful sense of excitement into the hospital.

What is your favourite thing to do on the weekend?

On weekends, I love watching my two boys, Leo and Beau, play sport. I also enjoy live music and catching up with friends.

