

North Shore Newsletter



TERM 3, 2026

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

We hope your child has had a positive start to Term 3. As we move through the second half of the term, we are pleased to share some important updates, upcoming learning opportunities and new initiatives designed to further support our students and families.

In-person Homework Support

We have received very positive feedback from families about our complimentary in-person Homework Support, and we are pleased to extend this service in Term 4.

Homework Support is available every Friday from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at our Box Hill campus with no additional cost to families. We understand how busy family life can be, and this service is designed to provide students with additional after-school academic support when they need it. Places are limited and prior registration is required.

Please speak with our Student Services team at the front desk to register your child.

Beyond the Words: Helping Children Become Better Readers

Learning to read is about much more than recognising and sounding out words. **The real purpose of reading is to understand meaning.** A child may be able to read a passage fluently but still struggle to explain what happened, why a character behaved a certain way, or what the author is trying to communicate. Strong comprehension skills help children build vocabulary, make connections, draw conclusions and think more deeply about what they read. As children progress through school, these skills become increasingly important as they begin to **read to learn across all subjects.**

To support the development of these important skills, we are planning to introduce a **Reading Club in Term 4**, with a focus on reading fluency, expression, vocabulary and, most importantly, comprehension. Through carefully selected texts, guided discussion and purposeful questioning, students will be encouraged to move beyond simply reading the words to thinking deeply about meaning, ideas and language.

We are currently inviting expressions of interest from families for Term 4. This will assist us in planning appropriate class groupings, allocating teaching staff and ensuring the programme is structured to meet the needs of participating students. Families who are interested in the Reading Club are encouraged to register their interest early to assist with our Term 4 planning.

Finally, thank you for being part of our learning community. We look forward to continuing to support your child's learning, confidence, and growth throughout the remainder of Term 3.

Carris Yiu
Principal (VIC)

Key Dates:

- **Term 3 concludes:** Sunday, 20th September, 2026
- **Term 4 re-enrolment early bird discount finishes:** 6th September, 2026
- **Holiday Program:** 28th September to 2nd October 2026
- **Term 4, 2026 commences:** Saturday, 10th October, 2026
- **In-person Homework Support**
Every Friday during term 4
from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
(registration required)

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The Future Belongs to the Problem Solvers

Mr. Tony Hanlon . NSW Principal

Developing effective literacy and numeracy skills are fundamental to any education program. As a society we acknowledge this; placing a high value on the ability to read, write and understand mathematical concepts. We have developed a schooling system to achieve this end.

LEARNING IN THE POST-INFORMATION AGE

Looking back, education in the twentieth-century was predictable - acquire knowledge and skills and then apply these effectively. This became the key to a successful schooling and career trajectory.

Acquisition of knowledge, as the ultimate goal of education, could be seen in the way we structured classes, rewarded achievement and even in the wording of countless school mottos:

Scientia ac Labore (Through knowledge & hard work), Fide splendet et scientia (May it shine with truth and knowledge), Savoir c'est pouvoir (Knowledge is power), and so on.

**But what happens when
'knowledge' is no longer
enough?**

THE KEY TO SUCCESS IS **APPLICATION**

Welcome to the post-information age. AI is nipping on our heels like a cheeky fox terrier. A mix of anxiety and opportunity can be felt in every school and workplace with just exactly how AI will change our lives.

So, what of 'knowledge' at this unparalleled point in human history? What now, when knowledge and memorisation are the domain of machines - computers, AI prompts and chat bots? When humans may even question their role in the evolution of humanity itself?

This is where the notion of 'application' becomes critical. Knowledge and skills need to be **applied** if students are to meet with true and lasting success. This is where the skills of problem solving will play a critical role.

Knowing how and when to use knowledge is the key. In other words - **problem solving**.

PROBLEM SOLVING YOU SAY?

On the surface problem solving skills seems self-explanatory. Skills that allow you to solve problems. Or 'the process of finding solutions to difficult or complex issues' (Thank you the ever-trustworthy Oxford dictionary). But what does this actually mean?

No doubt you've heard your children's teachers talk of the importance of problem-solving skills until it becomes white noise. The term has become almost innocuous - losing impact due to 'overuse' and 'under' explanation.

"Nathan has very good problem-solving skills."
"Tao's problem-solving skills have shown significant improvement this term."

How do we teach and measure problem-solving skills?

How do we remediate these skills if they are lacking?

PROBLEM SOLVING NEEDS TO BE TAUGHT LIKE ANY OTHER SKILL SET

We are not born with superior problem-solving skills. We need to learn the skills.

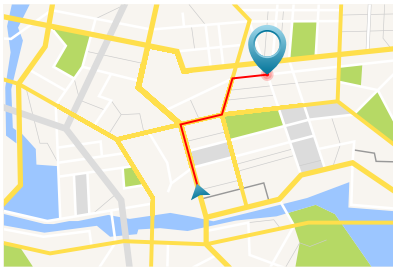
Here is one successful method of solving our problems in our day-to-day lives. The steps in this process include the following:

- 1 Define the problem.**
- 2 Generate alternate solutions.**
- 3 Evaluate and select a singular solution.**
- 4 Implement the said solution.**

LET'S APPLY THIS PROCESS TO AN EXAMPLE

Tao doesn't know the quickest way to the soccer grounds. He begins by recognising his lack of knowledge and makes the decision to rectify this situation.

Tao will now generate alternate solutions by entering the address of the soccer grounds into his GPS. He is now able to see four different routes he could take. By using a quick analysis of how long each route will take him, Tao decides to take route C as it will be the quickest.



Finally, Tao hops on his skateboard and is on his journey.

This process, whilst simple, is critical to our day-to-day lives. Successful people use the problem-solving approach so much, that oftentimes they do not even realise that it is happening.



SUPERIOR PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS

Not all problem solving is as simple as the above example. The teaching of effective problem solving involves exposing students to challenges of increasing complexity. Those who master the more challenging problem-solving skills will be well placed for a demanding and unpredictable future.

Career Success is About Problem Solving Skills not Qualifications

Careers stall not because we are not qualified but because we are not mentally agile. Mental agility is reliant on our problem-solving skills. We are rewarded in the workplace, even in our personal relationships, for our ability to solve problems. Often a less qualified person is promoted due to their ability to rise to the challenge in the face of a problem. It becomes quickly apparent who are the problem-solvers in the organisation. Qualifications may put you in the job - results secure your tenure.

We often refer to these successful problem solvers as “the people who can get the job done” without actually acknowledging their superior problem-solving skills.

So, problem solving is not just something we need for our everyday lives. It can be the key to a successful career, and it will be the key to all our futures.

RAISE A HERO FOR CHALLENGING TIMES

All parents dream that their children will grow up to do something special; that they leave their mark on the world and be met with success. We are living in challenging times. Politicians who are re-writing accepted rules of governance. Geo-political tensions at the most heightened level since the Cold War. Economic headwinds making the cost of living an all-consuming thought for many families. The environment is facing pressures we have not seen in human history. The continued habitation of certain regions of the planet may become questionable in as little as a decade.

We are in need of solutions to problems we have never faced before. This is where our most gifted problem solvers will find their niche.

The problem solvers who can effectively employ soft skills such as diplomacy and find positions of compromise between combatants will assist us in avoiding further conflicts and potential disaster. In short, we need to find from amongst us some everyday ‘heroes’ who can step forward to face these challenges.

Your child can be one of these ‘heroes’ through an effective education in problem solving skills.

Sounds good. But what can I do?



ACT IN THE PRESENT.

When the opportunity arises, don't give your child a solution. Instead, lead them through the problem-solving process:

- 1 Define the problem.
- 2 Generate alternate solutions.
- 3 Evaluate and select a singular solution.
- 4 Implement the said solution.

Be the change, be the growth you want for your child. Be the one to stand by them when they make their initial steps as competent problem-solvers. Raise a hero for challenging times.

Spring Holiday Program



EXTRA ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Consolidate learning and strengthen key skills.



MAINTAIN GOOD HABITS

Keep your study momentum going.



MAKE NEW FRIENDS

A positive, and supportive environment to learn and grow together.



FOCUSED LEARNING

Small class sizes, experienced teachers, and proven results.

TIME:

28 Sept - 2 Oct

LOCATION:

Principal Campus
(Box Hill)

AGE:

Years Prep - 10
Key Subjects

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