



THE NSEY BUZZ

The Official Newsletter of Northern Schools Early Years



Love a life of learning and living!

Our end-of-year celebration and Loving Learning Awards

Hello from our CEO

As we reach the end of another incredible year, I'd like to extend a big thank you to our amazing educators, support staff, our Principals Network Group, our Board, our partners, the Department of Education, and our children and families at Northern Schools Early Years! We've opened a new service at Greenvale Primary School, six services underwent Assessment and Rating, and lots more! (See page 4).

2026 is set to be another exciting one with our new Gladstone Views Kindergarten opening and our new Toy Library at Roxburgh Park Primary School Kindergarten commencing. We'll also have quite a few new educators and teachers joining the NSEY team with the expansion of our programs to accommodate Pre-Prep.

Everything we do is supported by our integrated Kindergarten to Grade 6 model, and along with the expertise and collaboration of our teams, we are proud to provide such valuable education and care for the children in our communities. It truly takes a village, and we're so grateful to work alongside all of you to 'Love a Life of Learning and Living'!

To the children and families who will be moving on to school in 2026, we are so grateful that you chose to spend your kindergarten years with us! We wish you all the very best for school next year as you continue on your learning journey.

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Wishing you all a wonderful festive season and a safe and happy new year!



Sigi Hyett,
Chief Executive
Officer

Enrolments are still open for 2026!

Kindergarten places are filling fast for 2026, so it's important to register as soon as possible!

- To enrol in a 3 or 4-year old program in the City of Hume: click [here](#) to go to the Council's website and complete the registration form.
- To enrol in a 3 or 4-year-old program in the City of Merri-bek: click [here](#) to go to the Council's website and complete the registration form.
- To enrol at Rothschild Road Kindergarten (Gisborne) or Molesworth Street Kindergarten (North Melbourne) contact the NSEYC Office on 9306 1662 or email us at office@nseyc.org.au.
- To enrol for long day care at Glenroy Hub Children's Centre, click [here](#) to go to the Merri-bek Council Central Registration website or call 9240 1111.

You can also pick up enrolment forms from our office, our kindergartens or school offices. If you need any assistance to register, please contact our office on 9306 1662.

School term dates for 2026

Term 1, 2024	27 January - 2 April
Term 2, 2024	20 April - 26 June
Term 3, 2025	13 July - 18 September
Term 4, 2025	5 October - 18 December

For more information about our services, for help with enrolling, or any other queries please contact us on 9306 1662 or email office@nseyc.org.au and we'll be happy to help!



Season's Greetings

On behalf of all of our teams, our Principals Network Group, and our Board of Directors, we wish our families and partners a very safe and happy festive season. Thank you for being part of the NSEY learning community in 2025!

Our office will be closed from the 21st of December to 2nd of January, reopening on the 5th of January.



Starting school

Back to school is an exciting time for students and families. It can be a big step – particularly for those starting prep. Here are some tips on how you can help your child have a positive start to school. The Department of Education shares the following tips to support children starting prep.

During the summer holidays

- Show your child where the school is and talk about how you will get there.
- Arrange play times with other families whose children will be going to the same school. It helps if your child knows another child at their school at the start of prep.
- Practise the things your child will need to do to get ready for school (e.g. putting things in their bag, remembering to take a hat).
- Confirm your before or after school care arrangements and explain these to your child.
- Be positive about starting school and enjoy your child's excitement.
- Visit your local library and read books with your child about starting school.



The first day of school

- Make sure your child knows who will take them to school and pick them up on the first day.
- Help your child to organise their clothes, hat, shoes and socks the night before.
- Help your child to pack their school bag with a snack, drink, lunch and a hat.
- Place a spare pair of underpants and a change of clothes in a plastic bag. Let your child know these clothes are in their bag in case of any accidents at school.
- Put sunscreen on your child in the morning if it's needed.
- Show your child where you will meet them at the end of the school day.
- At the end of the day talk to your child about what happened at school.

While your child is settling in to school

- Many primary schools have a buddy system for Prep children. They will partner your child with older students. This is to help your child have a welcoming experience from the very beginning.
- Find out about what your child is learning at school. By doing this, you can support your child's learning and find out how your child is adjusting to school.
- If your child is having difficulty at school, talk to their teacher. Your child can also say what they think might help them.
- Keep talking to your child about school. Ask them about their new experiences, what they like and what they find hard.
- If your child goes to care before or after school, find a way of sharing your child's school progress with the staff.
- Share feedback about your child's experience of starting school with the school and early childhood service.
- Organise time for your child and their new friends to play together outside of school.

Read more at <https://www.vic.gov.au/tips-starting-school>



Celebrating our teams' achievements

On the 12th of December we held our annual end-of-year celebration, to give our teams an opportunity to reflect on the year, acknowledge all that has been achieved, and have some fun! We gathered at the Northern Golf Club in Glenroy for our 'Loving Learning Awards' and a dance party. It was great to see so many of our team members bring their best moves to the dance floor!

2025 has been yet another year of growth and continuous improvement for the NSEY, and we are so proud of our children, families and teams, and the positive impact our programs have had in our communities.

As part of the evening, we held our 'Loving Learning Awards', which are inspired by the Victorian Early Years Awards. We took nominations for each category from across our teams, and it was great to see many of our team members nominating other teachers and educators from across the organisation in recognition of the work they do. Special congratulations to the winners, as follows:

- **Improving Access and Participation in Early Learning** - Coolaroo South Kindergarten
- **Supporting Parents to Build their Capacity and Confidence** - Bethal Kindergarten
- **Creating Collaborative Community Partnerships** - Will Will Rook Preschool
- **Promoting Children's Health and Wellbeing** - Meadows Primary School Kindergarten
- **Continuity of Learning** - Holy Child Kindergarten
- **Long Service Award** - Amira Mourad (10 years!)
- **Early Childhood Teacher of the Year** - Soi Soi Chan from Glenroy Central Kindergarten
- **Early Childhood Educator of the Year** - Dallah Taleb, Glenroy Hub Children's Centre
- **CEO's Award** - Glenroy Central Kindergarten

Some other achievements for 2025 include:

- Six of our services went through Assessment and Rating, with the following great results. Well done to these teams for the quality learning programs you provide for children every single day!
 - Coolaroo South, Exceeding overall and in 4 areas
 - Roxburgh Park Primary School Kindergarten, Meeting overall and Exceeding in 2 areas
 - Upfield Kindergarten, Exceeding overall and in 4 areas
 - Will Will Rook, Meeting overall and Exceeding in 3 areas
 - York St Kindergarten, Exceeding overall and in 5 areas
 - Glenroy Central, Exceeding in all 7 areas
- We've been successful in securing a grant to set up a new Toy Library at Roxburgh Park Primary School Kindergarten, which will open early next year.
- We implemented the 15% wage increase for our long day care educators, which was very warmly welcomed and well-deserved by our team at the Glenroy Hub Children's Centre.

Congratulations and thank you to all of our educators, teachers, Family Support Workers and management team members for another great year!





What's happening at NSEY

New kindergarten opening at Gladstone Views Primary School!



We are excited that Northern Schools Early Years has been appointed as the provisional provider for two new Kindergartens on School Sites (KOSS) being built by the Victorian Government: Gladstone Views Kindergarten (opening in 2026), and Sunbury College Kindergarten (interim name, planned to open in 2027).

We are looking forward to partnering with these two schools to bring our award-winning Kindergarten to Grade-6 model to new communities, so that even more children and families can benefit from our early learning programs! Huge thanks to the Victorian Government and the Victorian Schools Building Authority for providing this opportunity.

Enrolment registrations are open for Gladstone Views Kindergarten via www.hume.vic.gov.au/kindergarten



Top: Sigi and Bec in front of the new kinder site

Bottom: Our management team and primary school AP Domenica

Toy Library Grant for Roxburgh Park Primary School Kindergarten

We are excited to share that NSEY has received a grant to set up a new Toy Library at our Roxburgh Park Primary School Kindergarten!

The Victorian Government is investing \$1.9 million over 4 years to establish 8 new toy libraries and support existing toy libraries across the state.

Our new Toy Library will be available to the kindergarten and school families as well as the broader community, helping to support children's learning and development at home.

Planning is now underway, watch this space!





What's happening at NSEY (continued)

NSEY team at the Early Childhood Australia Conference



NSEY is committed to investing in professional learning for our staff, and this includes opportunities to attend national conferences such as the Early Childhood Australia conference, which was held in Perth this year!

Five of our management and kindergarten team members attended this year (pictured from left to right - Bec H, Linda, Bec C, Yara and Parastoo). The conference theme was “Universal not Uniform: Leading change, strengthening unity and honouring individuality” and featured so many incredible speakers. Topics of note were the use of digital technology in early learning, children’s literacy development, exploring challenges for the EC workforce, supporting educator wellbeing and much more.

An update on Child Safety reforms in early childhood

In response to the shocking cases of child abuse in child care that have been revealed in recent months, there have been significant child safety reforms introduced in Victoria and nationally, with key changes coming into effect in late 2025 and early 2026. These include:

- Reforms to the Working With Children Check (WWCC) and Reportable Conduct Scheme are underway.
- The timeframe for approved providers to notify the regulatory authority of any incidents or allegations of physical or sexual abuse is reduced from 7 days to 24 hours.
- Service environments must be free from the use of vaping substances and vaping devices
- Services must have a policy and procedures for the safe use of digital technologies and online environments, and only authorised devices can be used when children are present. For NSEY, this means that parents are not permitted to use phones or other devices within the service.

Child safety is the single most important part of the work we do, and we take it extremely seriously. Our staff receive regular training and support to ensure the safety of all children attending our services, and we act swiftly to investigate and take action when concerns are raised, in line with our Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy and our Complaints and Grievances policy (which you can find on our website, <https://nseyc.org.au/policies/>).