



Helidon State School

Respectful | Responsible | Safe | Learners

The Principal's Term 4 Week 9 UPDATE

Thursday 4th December 2025

At Helidon State School we aim to be the *School of Choice*, not just a *School of Chance*.

*We aspire to be **THE** school in our district that parents are confident sending their children to, NOT because it just happens to be the closest school to home.*

We are all Safe, Respectful and Responsible Learners.

New Principal in 2026

A few weeks ago, I wrote to you to let you know that I will be taking long service leave for all of 2026 and then plan enter the semi-retirement phase of my life. It's been a hectic and exciting few weeks for me at school as I have been preparing a transition that will hopefully be as smooth as possible for my successor.

That being said, I am pleased to announce that your new Principal will be Heather Litzow. Heather is currently the Deputy Principal at Crows Nest State School. She will bring energy and enthusiasm to the role and a strong vision for curriculum and inclusive practices. These elements are essential for the next stage of growth and success for our school.

Heather will visit Helidon next week for a chance to meet the staff and students and to engage in a formal transition and handover process with me. Depending on the time she can be here, Heather may have an opportunity to meet some parents.

2026 class grouping and teacher assignments

In 2026 we anticipate a reduced number of enrolments to commence the school year. This will result in a reduction to 4 classes in 2026. *At this stage, the following allocations are tentative based on the best available estimates of our student enrolments to start the school year, and some changes may be made.*

Prep/1	Melissa Darvall	Prep building
1/2	Sarah Nixon (Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri) & Andrea McLoughlin (Wed)	C Block demountable (current 2/3 room)
3/4	Emma Reibelt	B Block (current 1/2 room)
5/6	Jodie Fea (Mon – Thur) & Mallory Anderson (Fri)	A Block upstairs (current 5/6 room)

Mrs Darvall and I will be contacting current Prep parents in the next 1 or 2 days to discuss which Year 1 class your child will be in next year.

Class resource lists for 2026

Attached is the list of items for each year level that we are asking parents/carers to provide for their children. Please ensure these are purchased in time for your children to bring them to school on Tuesday 27th January – the first day of the 2026 school year.

As has happened in each of the past few years, the school has provided **for free** all exercise book and pads, pencils and other basic stationary. There will be a Maths textbook for each student and a Spelling Mastery book for students in years 4-6 (and some in year 3). These will be provided **free** to all students.

We pay our respects to the traditional owners of the land on which our school is situated.

Farewell to staff

At the end of the year we inevitably say farewell so some staff who are moving on:

- **Jaclyn Carson** – Jaclyn came to Helidon on a temporary basis for 2025 and has done a great job as teacher of our 1/2 class. Jaclyn is an early-career teacher and leaves Helidon with a greater depth of experience and knowledge about the job. Jaclyn has been offered a teaching position at Fairview Heights State School in Toowoomba for 2026. We thank Jaclyn for her contribution to the life of our school and wish her well next year.
- **Annika Graves** – For those of you who remember, Annika accepted a temporary teaching position at Drayton State School for this year. I have recently been advised that Annika has now been permanently transferred to Newtown State School from the start of 2026. Annika was a long-term and highly effective teacher and valuable member of our school community for about 14 years. Annika provided exceptional leadership enabling participation in a range of sporting events for our students at our school and in the Lockyer Zone. Annika is an exceptional teacher, and will be very much missed at Helidon.
- **Jemima Lithgow** – Jemima has worked with us in a temporary capacity as an inclusion teacher aide in our P/1 class, supporting students with some complex needs. Jemima's patience and calm personality has been a valuable addition to our staff team.
- **Jacqui Graham** – While not known to most families, Jacqui has been our visiting Speech Language Pathologist for 1 day/fortnight for the past 2 years. Her role in doing speech-language screening on all our Preps, and in managing a caseload of students with speech-language delays and difficulties has been extremely valuable. Jacqui will be taking maternity leave in 2026, and we wish her well with the imminent birth of her third child.

Events calendar

Please find attached to this letter an updated calendar of events between now and the end of the year. We aim to keep this up-to-date, and will always communicate changes to events, dates and times in a timely manner. Please keep an eye out for Text Messages and E-Flashes (emails) from us with updates and latest information.

2026

• **Enrolments**

We are currently taking enrolments for 2026 for all year levels from Prep to Year 6. If you or someone you know has a Prep enrolment for 2026 and haven't contacted us, please do so ASAP as the earlier enrolments are received the better.

• **Intentions**

At the end of every school year, some families make decisions for a wide variety of reasons to move their children to another school. If you are planning this for your child, please make sure you contact Mrs Kugel or myself **directly** at the school office on 4612 9222 or email admin@helidonss.eq.edu.au.

• **School uniforms – P&C School Uniform Shop**

The School Uniform Shop, run by our P&C stocks a variety of school uniform tops, bottoms and hats. Please see the attached costing list.

The uniform shop is open most days, but over the next few months it will be open:

- All day from December 8th-12th (last week of Term 4).
- Student Free Days – Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd January 2026.
- Week 1 of Term 1 2026 – Tuesday 27th – Friday 30th January 2026.

Please call ahead if you can during this time, or simply drop in.

Swimming carnival – Monday December 1st

Congratulations to **JACARANDA** for taking out this year's Swimming Carnival House Trophy. It was great that our Jacaranda House Captain, Henry Pickering, included the 2026 Jacaranda House Captains-elect, Dylan Wright and Scarlett Killen in accepting the trophy. Thanks to the many family members who came for support.

Congratulations to our **2025 Swimming Carnival Age Champions**:

- 🏆 9 years boys – **Thomas Mantova**
- 🏆 9 years girls – **Summer Johnson**
- 🏆 10 years boys – N/A
- 🏆 10 years girls – **Lillie Walpole**
- 🏆 11 years boys – **Dylan Wright**
- 🏆 11 years girls – **Scarlett Killen**
- 🏆 12 years boys – **Henry Pickering**
- 🏆 12 years girls – **Kelsey Fea**

Christmas Play and Carols – Tuesday 2nd December

- **What a great night!** Unfortunately, the sound system failed us a bit at the wrong time, but the effort of the students, staff and volunteers in preparing for last night's event was enormous. Thanks to everyone for turning out.
- **Thanks to the P&C again** for dishing up some superb food, and congratulations to those who won the Christmas Raffles. The P&C took almost \$2,000 which will go towards supporting school programs such as swimming lessons for all students and support our school chaplaincy program.
- The students were great in their performances. A huge thankyou in particular to Mrs Nixon, Mrs Reibelt and Mrs McLoughlin who worked hard to get them ready for the big night.
- The visit from 'the big fella in red', as always, was a highlight. Thanks Kev!

Helidon's Got Talent

FINALS – Friday December 5th at 9:00am in the under covered area. Parents are welcome to attend.

Class parties & free dress

- **CLASS PARTIES** will be on Thursday 11th December.
- For 5/6, their class party will be Friday 5th December due to a busy week of year 6 graduation events and high school visits.
- Each class teacher will send home separate notes with what to bring.
- **Students are to wear school uniform on Thursday 11th December for class party day.**
- **FREE DRESS DAY – Friday 12th December.** The last day of the school year is **only** free dress day in the last week of school.

Lost property

The lost property cupboard will be cleaned out next week. Therefore, by Friday December 5th:

- Items that are named will be returned to their rightful owner.
- Unclaimed school uniform items that are **not** named, will be washed by volunteers, and donated to the P&C Second Hand Uniform shop.
- Unclaimed non-school uniform items (Eg lunch boxes, drink bottles, shoes, etc) that are **not** named, will be cleaned and donated to local charities.

Parent meetings and reports cards

- **Report Cards** for Semester 2, 2025 will be emailed home to parents on Wednesday December 10th.
- If you would like to make a time to discuss your child's progress, then please contact your child's teacher and make a time to meet with them before Friday December 5th.

Year 6 transition to High School activities

Many of the local state and private high school are conducting transition and orientation events and days for their 2026 year 7 cohort over the coming week. We have received **some** information about these which we have passed on to our year 6 students. Parents are asked to contact the office of your child's 2026 high school if you need accurate and up-to-date answers to any questions, and not ours. Thankyou.

School Holiday Activities – Coming Soon!

- **Lockyer Valley Regional Council** is creating a **School Holiday Activities Directory** featuring programs from local organisations, community groups, and Council initiatives.
- The **Lockyer Valley Libraries** also have their **school holiday program**, which you can already explore here: **Library Events:** lockyervalleylibraries.com/events
- **Stay updated:**
 - **Council Youth Programs:** lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/youth
 - Follow Council on **Facebook** for the latest updates.

We'll keep you updated with these things and more. Contact me if there's anything you wish to discuss.

Regards,



Mark Robertson
Principal

Helidon State School – *EVENTS CALENDAR 2025*

- Details are correct at this time, Wednesday, 3rd December 2025.
- Additional information for some events listed will be advised (TBA) in due course.
- Please understand that details such as dates, times and venues may change due to currently unforeseen circumstances.
- Changes to dates, information and corrections about listed events will be communicated in a timely manner.



Dates to Remember – Term 4

Dec 3rd – 4th	Teachers' curriculum planning days – relief teachers on ALL classes both days
Friday Dec 5th	Helidon's Got Talent finals – 9:00am. All welcome.
Friday Dec 5th	5/6 Class Party Day – a note has been sent home with students
Monday Dec 8th	High School Transition Day – Lockyer District SHS
Tuesday Dec 9th	High School Transition Day – Centenary Heights & Toowoomba SHSs
Tuesday Dec 9th	P&C General Meeting – School Library, 5:30pm followed by a meal
Tuesday Dec 9th	Rewards Day for eligible students
Wednesday Dec 10th	Year 6 Graduation Ceremony, 10:00am – 11:30am
Wednesday Dec 10th	2026 School & House Captains badge presentation after Graduation Ceremony
Wednesday Dec 10th	Report Cards to be emailed home
Thursday Dec 11th	Class Party Day (except 5/6) – teachers will send info – NOT free dress
Thursday Dec 11th	Year 6 End of Year 'Fun Day' at Emu Gully for eligible students
Friday Dec 12th	Last Breaky Club – <i>Up 'n' Go's</i>
Friday Dec 12th	LAST DAY OF TERM 4 – FREE DRESS DAY.
Dec 13th – Jan 26th	School Holidays
Tuesday Jan 27th 2026	First school day of 2026
Tuesday Feb 10th 2026	P&C Annual General Meeting – 5:30pm in the Library

Weekly/Regular

TUESDAY Office Times

Please be aware that Mrs Kugel does not work on Tuesdays.

While the office will be open, there may not always be someone present if you drop in.

Whole School Parade

Every Friday at 9:00am. All welcome to attend.

Tasty Tucker Tuesday

Weekly fundraiser selling pies and ice block each Tuesday that supports Chaplaincy. Qkr payments close at 4:00 pm each Monday, or children can bring cash on Tuesday mornings.

Breakfast Club

Tuesday and Friday mornings from 8:30am. **Volunteers are always needed.**