



CREEKSIDE K-9 COLLEGE STUDENT LEADERSHIP HANDBOOK



TABLE CONTENT

1. Introduction to Student Leadership
2. Developing Student Capacity
3. Student Leadership Roles (Primary & Secondary)
4. Our School-Wide Events

1. INTRODUCTION: STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Our Vision

At Creekside College, we believe every student has the potential to be a leader. Our student leadership program is built around the idea that when young people are empowered to have a voice, take initiative, and work together, our whole school community grows stronger.

Student voice matters deeply to us. When students are listened to and involved in decisions, our whole school benefits. It creates a stronger sense of belonging, builds confidence, and brings fresh ideas and perspectives to everything we do. That is why we are consistently working to provide students with more opportunities to get involved and have their say!

Our Journey

The student leadership program at Creekside College has existed since the school's creation. However, over the past few years, we've added a variety of new roles that allow students to contribute in the areas they're most passionate about, whether it's as school captain, sustainability captain, house captain, SWPB (school wide positive behaviour captain) or community captain. In 2024, we held our first Student Leadership Camp at Lady Northcote Discovery Camp, inviting students from Year 6 to 9 to attend. This is now a regular part of our leadership program as it is a fantastic chance for students to come together and develop their skills.

One of the biggest developments has been the relaunch of our House program, which has become a central part of school life. In 2022, we renamed our houses after notable Australians: Alcott, Freeman, Cowan, and Dunlop, to reflect our school values of respect, responsibility, acceptance and honesty. As part of the relaunch, students were invited to design new house shields. We received over 300 entries, and the final designs were created by blending the best ideas from our talented students. These shields are now proudly displayed across the school. Each year, we build upon our signature events (House Swimming, House Athletics and House Art) by adding student-driven competitions, created in response to the ideas and passions of our student leaders. This helps to keep the competition fun and fresh!





WHY WE VALUE STUDENT LEADERSHIP

At Creekside College, student leadership is highly valued for the positive impact it has on our school community. We believe it strengthens students' sense of connection to the school, encourages voice and agency both in the classroom and beyond, and fosters personal growth by building leadership capacity. Student leadership also plays a vital role in shaping the school environment, ensuring that student feedback is heard and reflected in meaningful ways.



"Being a student leader at Creekside has taught me that true leadership is about kindness, confidence, and inspiring others. It's about those small, memorable moments of kindness, shared laughs and commitment. Creekside has reminded me that the best leaders lead with heart, humour and the courage to care."

-Agam Kaur, Year 9 School Captain 2025

2. DEVELOPING STUDENT LEADERSHIP CAPACITY

At Creekside, we are committed to nurturing the leadership capacity of our students through a range of purposeful experiences, including regular leadership meetings, annual leadership camps, a dedicated Year 9 leadership elective, and both internal and external workshops and excursions. These opportunities are designed to empower our students and prepare them to make a positive impact within our school community and beyond.

Through our program, we aim to develop the following five key leadership skills: teamwork, resilience, ambition, communication and empathy (or as we like to call it TRACE). These focus areas were carefully chosen as they reflect the essential qualities we believe a Creekside Student Leader should possess.

TEAMWORK

Leadership is rarely a solo journey. We emphasise teamwork and the ability to work effectively with others, recognising that strong leaders bring people together to achieve common goals.

RESILIENCE

Leadership often involves challenges and setbacks. Building resilience helps our student leaders stay committed, adaptable, and optimistic in the face of adversity.

AMBITION

Great leaders don't wait for direction, they seek out opportunities to contribute and create positive change. We encourage students to be proactive and take ownership of their leadership journey.

COMMUNICATION

Clear, respectful, and confident communication is crucial for inspiring others, resolving conflicts, and sharing ideas. We support students in developing their ability to listen actively and express themselves thoughtfully.

EMPATHY

Understanding and valuing the perspectives of others builds trust and promotes inclusive leadership. We nurture empathy to ensure our leaders can support their peers and make ethical, compassionate decisions.

By developing these five skills, our students grow into confident, capable, and compassionate leaders who are well-prepared to navigate the complexities of leadership both at school and in the wider world.



3. STUDENT LEADERSHIP ROLES: PRIMARY



A **Primary School Captain** is a trusted leader, who represents their school through the four school values of responsibility, honesty, acceptance and respect. School Captains support teachers, represent the school at special events, and encourage all students to live by the school values every day. They listen to the ideas of other students and help make the school a better place for everyone. School Captains organise and participate in activities, promote teamwork, and always set a good example by following the four values.



A **House Captain** is a proud representative of the allocated house - Dunlop, Cowan, Allcott and Freeman. They each organise their House Day, collaborating with heads of house to raise money for a chosen charity. They lead the school during sports events, competitions, and school activities, include House Events such as Harmony Week, House Soccer and other sporting tournaments throughout the year. They display and encourage sportsmanship, cooperation and positive behaviour during sporting events throughout the school.



The **SWPB Captains** (School Wide Positive Behaviour) play an important role in promoting positive behaviour throughout the school in line with the four school values. They engage with year levels across the school and work alongside students to encourage positive play and behaviour. They help to organise special events and celebrations that promote inclusiveness such as Harmony Week. They listen to and action feedback from students in relation to clubs and activities they would like to see across the school.



The **Sustainability Captains** are students who are passionate about guiding the school community to care for their environment and implement strategies for the school community to make the school a better place to be. They encourage recycling and waste reduction across the school, as well as teaching those younger students about the importance of caring for our school environment. They support and lead educational days about the environment.



A **Student Council** member in primary school helps represent their classmates and works with teachers to make the school a better place. They help plan fun events like Harmony Week and various fundraisers, share student ideas, and support their classmates by being kind, responsible, and a good leader.

PRIMARY

3. STUDENT LEADERSHIP ROLES: SECONDARY



A **Secondary School Captain** exemplifies the school values of acceptance, honesty, respect and responsibility and serves as a model of excellent behaviour. They are the student face of our college. The role of a school captain is to support staff members in the organisation of school events and represent the College at public events. A school captain also represents the ideas of the student body and lead initiatives that aim to engage students in the school.



The **Community Captain** plays a key role in strengthening the school's connection with the local community. Responsibilities include representing the school at events such as the ANZAC Day dawn service and fostering relationships with local organisations and groups. The Community Captain also gathers student feedback through surveys to gauge wellbeing and engagement, using this insight to help shape initiatives aimed at improving school life. The role requires creativity, empathy, and a proactive approach to problem-solving, with a focus on making a positive impact both within the school and beyond.



The **House Captains** help to unite and inspire members of each house. They encourage a strong sense of team spirit, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm throughout school events. The responsibilities include organising and rallying students for competitions, supporting house activities such as charity fundraisers, and working closely with staff and other student leaders. It's a chance to lead by example through involvement, encouragement, and a positive attitude. Strong communication, a sense of responsibility, and the ability to work well with others are all important qualities for the role.



The **Student Council** plays a key role in organising events and initiatives around the school. Prospective student representative council members should be willing to advance their skills in the areas of teamwork, responsibility, ambition, communication, and empathy. Student council members are expected to meet with staff to contribute ideas and provide feedback for a wide variety of events, tasks and opportunities around the college. Student representative council members will also be given the opportunity to participate in excursions to help better improve their leadership skills.

SECONDARY

4. SCHOOL-WIDE EVENTS

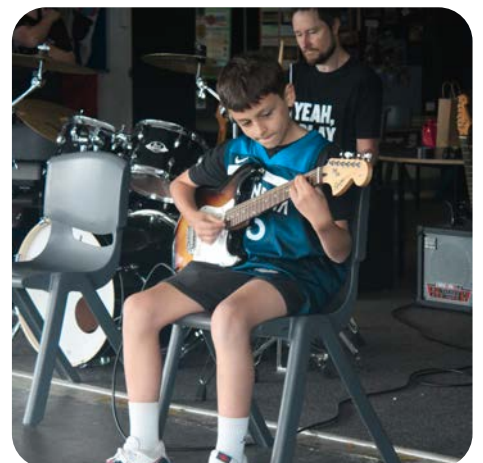
Each year, our student leaders play an important role in planning and running a wide variety of events and special days. While the specific activities may vary from year to year, the list below offers an overview of some of the days we enjoy celebrating at Creekside and the ways we typically mark these occasions. Our leaders are given the freedom to design and personalise each event in a way that reflects their ideas and values, which means the celebrations can look quite different each year. In addition to the events listed, there are also many smaller activities that take place throughout the school year.

HARMONY WEEK

Harmony Week is a vibrant celebration of the many cultures that make up our school community. Students take part in break time activities such as Filipino tinikling, Chinese jianzi, and Southeast Asian takraw. In 2024, primary students hosted a World Cup-style soccer tournament, embracing the spirit of friendly competition. In previous years, families contributed recipes for the Creekside Cultural Cookbook, showcasing our community's diverse flavours. A highlight of the week is always the traditional dress day, where students wear cultural attire and celebrate their heritage through music and movement. Lunch time often ends with 60 + students and teachers dancing together in circles.

BUSKING DAY

Busking Day is one of our biggest events of the year, raising money for the Good Friday Appeal. Each year level runs a stall selling items they have either made or been donated. In Primary, we have stalls selling food, books, lolly bags, popcorn, pre loved toys, handmade bookmarks and so much more! In Secondary there were stalls that sold slushies, baked goods, fairy floss. There were also a number of stalls running competitions with prizes to win. In 2024, we raised over \$7000 for the Good Friday Appeal and were invited to present a cheque on Chanel 7.



4. SCHOOL-WIDE EVENTS

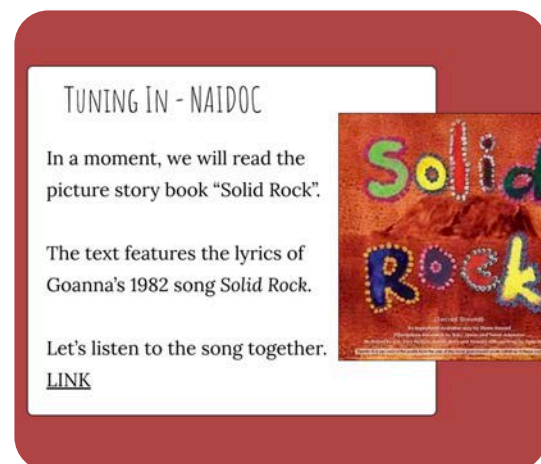
PRIDE WEEK

PRIDE Week is a celebration of inclusion, identity, and belonging, led primarily for our secondary students. Throughout the week, students can choose to take part in a range of optional break time activities such as badge making, LGBTQIA+ trivia, and film viewings that promote awareness and acceptance. All activities are opt-in and not compulsory, allowing students to engage in a way that feels right for them. The week provides a safe and supportive space for students to learn, express themselves, and celebrate diversity across our school community.



NAIDOC

NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. It is an annual event celebrated Australia wide to acknowledge and celebrate the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Throughout the week, student take part in activities in class that help them to explore the amazing culture and history of Australia's Indigenous Peoples. These activities are designed to reflect each year's NAIDOC theme.



JANINE BLACHFORD DAY

This fundraiser is very close to Creekside's hearts as it is in honour of our late principal Janine Blachford, who died from breast cancer in 2021. This event has evolved with student involvement and we now host a large whole school bake sale. Families and staff donate baked goods to be sold to our school community before school. In 2024, we raised over \$2000 with bake sales and raffle tickets. The raffle includes donations generously given to us from our local community, collected by our Year 6 Leaders.

4. SCHOOL-WIDE EVENTS

HOUSE CHARITY DAYS

House Charity Days are a chance for each house to come together and support a meaningful cause. The head teachers of each house work closely with their house captains to plan and run a fundraiser, with past events including teacher vs student sports matches, bake sales, raffles, pie a teacher and more. These days are filled with school spirit and friendly competition, as each house aims to raise the most money. The house that raises the highest amount earns a significant number of points towards the overall house competition.



RUOK? DAY

R U OK Day is an Australia wide event where people are encouraged to connect with others and check in on their wellbeing. The core message is to ask "Are you OK?" and be prepared to listen and support those who might need assistance. In primary school, we hold mindfulness activities during breaktime and create opportunities for students to connect with their peers. In secondary school, classes work through some key lessons aimed at fostering discussion and understanding of mental health and how to support your loved ones. Secondary and primary student often come together to work through some activities.



SUSTAINABILITY WEEK

Sustainability Week focuses on promoting sustainable practices and raising awareness about environmental issues. The students are encouraged to adopt eco-friendly habits in their daily lives, both at school and at home, such as recycling and switching off lights/taps when they are not needed.

ANZAC & REMEMBRANCE DAY

Creekside College proudly honours ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day each year through student-led commemorations. On ANZAC Day, our Community Captains attend the local dawn service, while a larger group of student leaders travel to the Shrine of Remembrance to lay a wreath and take part in the student service. Remembrance Day is led by Dunlop House as part of the House Charity competition, with a focus on commemorating the service and sacrifice of Australian soldiers. This day holds special meaning for Dunlop House, named after Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop, a respected army surgeon and prisoner-of-war who showed great courage and compassion during WWII.

