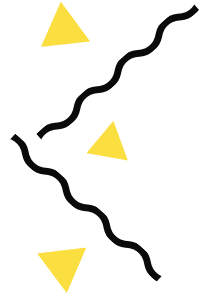


GAAYIP-YAGILA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



THE LATEST EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

Welcome to Week 8 of Term 1! It has been a busy and exciting term so far, and we are proud of the many achievements of our students.

A huge well done to all our Year 3 and Year 5 students who have completed their NAPLAN assessments over the past week. We commend them for their focus and effort during this important milestone.

Congratulations to all the students who participated in Ride2School Day! It was fantastic to see so many students and families participate in the event. A special thank you to our PE team and staff for organising the event and to everyone who joined us for a healthy breakfast to kickstart the day.

We are excited to welcome families to our Harmony Day celebrations tomorrow. This is a special opportunity to come together as a school community to celebrate diversity, inclusion, and respect. We look forward to sharing this experience with you.

Our Year 6 students are counting down the days until their camp to Phillip Island beginning on Monday. This will be a fantastic opportunity for them to develop independence, strengthen friendships, and enjoy outdoor activities in a beautiful setting. They will also be attending the Penguin Parade!

To finish the term, we will be celebrating Easter with a Hat Day party on the last day of school. Students will be creating hats in Art class, but families are welcome to make hats at home to wear. We can't wait to see the wonderful and creative designs!

Thank you for your ongoing support, and I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events.

Kind Regards

Cassy Hoggins

Coming Together To Learn

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TERM 1

Dates	Event
Fri 28th Feb - Sun 30th March	Ramadan
Friday 21st March	Harmony Day
Mon 24th Mar - Wed 26th March	Year 6 Camp - Phillip Island
Friday 28th March	Year 3 Excursion to Melbourne Museum
Tuesday 1st April	School Cross Country - Y3 - 6
Friday 4th April	Hat Day Party - Parade 9.00am Assembly 1.30pm
Friday 4th April	LAST DAY OF TERM - DISMISSAL 2.10pm

TERM 2

Dates	Event
Tuesday 22nd April	Students return to school
Thursday 24th April	Anzac Assembly
Monday 28th April	School Photos

Coming Together To Learn

ASSEMBLY DATES 2025

We extend a warm invitation to join us at our upcoming school assembly! As we gather together, we'll celebrate our students' achievements, share important updates, and foster a sense of community. Your presence enriches our school culture, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Please note that we hold three assemblies each term: two throughout and a final one which reviews our successes for the term. Below are the dates and times of our assemblies for the year.

Term 1

Friday 4th April - End of term 1:30pm

Term 2

Monday 12th May - 2:30pm

Monday 16th June - 2:30pm

Friday 27th June - End of term 1:30pm

Term 3

Monday 11th August - 2:30pm

Monday 8th September - 2:30pm

Friday 19th September - End of term 1:30pm

Term 4

Monday 27th October - 2:30pm

Monday 24th November - 2:30pm

Friday 19th December - End of Year 2:30pm



Coming Together To Learn

Understanding phonics: a helpful guide for families, parents and carers

Reading is a foundational life skill and a source of pleasure and wonder.

It is one of the most important skills children learn and the teaching of **phonics** plays an important role in helping them become confident, fluent readers.

This guide will help you understand what phonics is, why it is important in learning to read, and how children can be supported at home to develop their awareness of sounds, and of the relationships between sounds and letters.

What is phonics?

Phonics includes linking sounds (called 'phonemes') to their corresponding letters (called 'graphemes'). Students read words by recognising the relationships between written symbols and their corresponding sounds.

Phonics is one of 6 components that make up a comprehensive reading program.

The other components are:

Oral language	Knowing and using spoken words to express knowledge, ideas and emotions
Phonemic awareness	The knowledge of sounds (phonemes)
Vocabulary	Understanding words in isolation and in context
Fluency	Reading accurately and at an appropriate rate with expression
Comprehension	Making meaning from text which includes developing knowledge of grammar

These are the foundational skills that have a reciprocal relationship and are all necessary to enable students to independently read and respond to increasingly complex fiction and non-fiction texts.

Why is phonics instruction important?

Research and evidence show that phonics instruction is a highly effective way to teach children to read. It helps them develop **decoding skills** (translating printed words into speech), which assist in reading unfamiliar words. Phonics gives many children the tools to figure out new words and understand spelling patterns, building their reading fluency and comprehension.

How is phonics taught in schools?

The key elements of phonics are:

- 1. Phonemes:** the smallest units of sound in speech (e.g., the sound /k/ in 'cat').
- 2. Graphemes:** the letters, or groups of letters, that represent these sounds (e.g., the letter 'c' in 'cat').
- 3. Blending:** combining individual sounds together to read a word (e.g., /c/ /a/ /t/ = 'cat').
- 4. Segmenting:** breaking down words into their individual sounds to spell them (e.g., chat = /ch/a/t).

Phonics is taught through a structured, sequential approach where children learn the simplest sounds (such as /s/, /a/, and /t/ and gradually move to more complex sound-letter patterns (such as /ee/, as in the sound in the word 'bee' and /oa/ as in the sound in the word 'cloak'. This is known as teaching **using a systematic, synthetic phonics** approach. In simple terms, children learn different sounds, then practice blending sounds together to read words.

The Academy is grateful to Parents Victoria for their expert advice in producing this guide



This document has been prepared by the Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership (the Academy). The Academy reserves any moral rights of integrity in this text and publishes it on the basis that it may be used, provided it is not altered or adapted for use without the express permission of the Academy. Please note that the Further Reading (References) section is provided for attribution only and not subject to the terms of the Creative Commons Licence. No representations are made as to the accessibility or copyright ownership of the publications listed and they are solely provided as alternative sources of knowledge relevant to the topic. Content edited and up-to-date as at October 2024.

Learning phonics at home

Print this list out and stick it on the wall or the fridge, so you can practice phonics with your kids at home.

Read together Choose books that interest your child and spend time reading aloud together.	Phonics bingo Create bingo cards with letters, sounds, or words. As you call out the sound (phoneme) or word, children mark it off the corresponding card.	Memory games Use flashcards with letters and images that start with the corresponding sounds on them. Have children turn them over and try to find matching pairs of letters and images e.g. Cc and cat.	I spy Play 'I spy' focusing on sounds and letters. For example, 'I spy with my little eye something that begins with the sound /b/.'
Sand or salt trays Encourage children to trace letters in sand or salt trays while saying the sound.	Playdough letters Encourage children to form letters with playdough and then say the corresponding sound as they make each letter. This can be extended by using the letters to form words and sound them out.	Hopscotch with sounds Draw a hopscotch grid outside, with each square containing a letter. Children hop on the squares and say the corresponding sound of that letter aloud, reinforcing learning with movement.	Phonics songs Find fun phonics songs online that help children remember sounds through repetition and music.
Nursery rhymes and poems Rhyming helps children recognise sound patterns. Encourage them to point out rhyming words and identify the sounds and letters that the rhyming words share.	Sound hunt Ask children to find objects around the house or classroom that start with a certain sound or letter. For example, 'Can you find something that starts with /s/?'	Word hunt Hide cards with letters or words around the room, and have children search for and read them out aloud as they find them.	Letter collage Have children cut out pictures from magazines of items that start with a specific sound. They can create a collage for each letter sound.
Phonics jump Write letters on pieces of paper, place them on the floor, and have children jump to the correct sound as you call it out.	Sound labels Label objects around the house or classroom with their phonemes (sounds). For example, place a label on the door with the sound '/d/,' and encourage children to sound it out each time they pass by.	Sound of the day/week Make one sound (phoneme) the 'sound of the day' or 'sound of the week' and encourage children to listen for it in conversation, TV shows, or books over that time period.	Make your own Have fun inventing activities together using words and sounds

www.academy.vic.gov.au



This document has been prepared by the Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership (the Academy). The Academy reserves any moral rights of integrity in this text and publishes it on the basis that it may be used, provided it is not altered or adapted for use without the express permission of the Academy. Please note that the Further Reading (References) section is provided for attribution only and not subject to the terms of the Creative Commons Licence. No representations are made as to the accessibility or copyright ownership of the publications listed and they are solely provided as alternative sources of knowledge relevant to the topic. Content edited and up-to-date as at October 2024.

SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE –

Seeking further parent nominations

We are working toward finalising our new school council for 2025. However, we currently have four parent member vacancies (3 x 2 year term, 1 x 1 year term) that still need to be filled.

If you are interested in joining our school council, please email gaayip.yagila.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Our current 2025 School Council members are as follows:

Parent Members	School Employee Members	Community Members
Vicki Fontaine Manjot Kaur Amanda MacGregor <i>Vacant positions</i>	Katrina Lamers Amanda Frittolini Hanna Spark Cassandra Hoggins – Executive Officer	Simone Evans

The next step for school council will be to elect officer bearers at our upcoming school council meeting. School Council meetings are from 5.30 – 7.30pm and alternate between onsite and online.

Dates for future meetings (draft):

- Wednesday 2nd April or Wednesday 23rd April (onsite)
- Wednesday 21st May (onsite)
- Wednesday 18th June (online)
- Wednesday 23rd July (onsite)
- Wednesday 20th August (online)
- Wednesday 17th September (online)
- Wednesday 22nd October (onsite)
- Wednesday 19th November (online)
- Wednesday 10th December (onsite - dinner meeting)

Coming Together To Learn

EXCELLENCE AWARDS

	Student (class)	For...
Foundation	Aliyah Al-Amine (FE)	For demonstrating EXCELLENCE across all learning areas by always trying her best and seeking teacher feedback.
Year 1	Manessa Toufaily (1C)	For staying focused and on task during learning and making sure work completed is their personal best.
Year 2	Adem Yuksel (2B)	For STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE and demonstrating engagement and active learning in class.
Year 3	Julie Asolua (3D)	For demonstrating the school expectation of EXCELLENCE by achieving great results in various topics in Numeracy.
Year 4	Yen Banh (4A)	For consistently STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE and always trying her best.
Year 5	Nathan Deang (5B)	For showing EXCELLENCE by consistently completing his work to a high standard and always trying his best.
Year 6	Masa Almashhadany (6D)	For consistently working hard and challenging herself by undertaking difficult tasks.



Coming Together To Learn

WELLBEING AWARDS

	Student	For...
Foundation	Hazel Shergill (FD)	For demonstrating RESPECT to her classroom by keeping the space clean and tidy. She also shows KINDNESS by helping others to clean up.
Year 1	Hadya Hossaini (1D)	For consistently showing KINDNESS and RESPECT to teachers and students.
Year 2	Taha Asad (2C)	For demonstrating resilience in challenging situations and showing KINDNESS to others.
Year 3	Sarah Jeevanjith (3B)	For consistently showing all of the school expectations in the classroom and being an excellent role model to others.
Year 4	Elsie Nnaji (4C)	For always including others and showing KINDNESS.
Year 5	Ethan Hanbunsri (5F)	For showing excellence by consistently supporting others with KINDNESS and encouragement.
Year 6	Aadesh Acharya (6E)	For showing RESPECT and maturity throughout the Year 6 body safe program.



Coming Together To Learn



HARMONY
DAY
FRIDAY
21 March



WE ALL
*have a
role
to play*



Students are able to come dressed in traditional clothes that represent their culture or the colour orange!

Parents are invited to join classrooms to celebrate Harmony Day from 9.00 - 9.50am.

Students will participate in cross age activities later in the day.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK and HARMONY DAY

Multiculturalism is a core part of the Victorian identity, our character and way of life. Our state is home to people who speak 290 languages and have 314 different ancestries. It's also a place where anyone can contribute and belong.

Cultural Diversity Week is a time to celebrate the power, influence, and stories of Victoria's rich multicultural communities, and all Victorians are invited to participate through a variety of in-person events and activities.

In 2025, Cultural Diversity Week will take place across the state from 17 - 23 March. The 2025 theme, 'Embrace the Journey, Shape Our Future' highlights the unique and shared cultural journeys that define our diverse communities, encouraging us to honour our own cultural stories and those of others, fostering understanding, belonging and connection.

Tomorrow, Friday 21st March, we celebrate Harmony Day where we will celebrate all the amazing cultures that make our school great. Come dressed in your traditional clothes or wear orange to support the day.

5 fun facts about our community at Gaayip-Yagila Primary School:

- 194 of our students were born overseas
- 65% of our students speak a language other than English
- 33 languages are spoken in our school
- 2% of students are indigenous
- 40% of parents were born in India



Coming Together To Learn

RIDE2SCHOOL DAY

A Great Success

What a fantastic morning we had for Ride2School Day! It was wonderful to see so many students riding their bikes and scooters—and even some arriving on skates! Students who participated were treated to a delicious breakfast, making for a great start to the day.

A big thank you to our PE team for organising the event and to all staff who helped make the morning a success. Ride2School Day is an important initiative that promotes active travel, healthy lifestyles, and road safety awareness, helping students build independence while reducing traffic congestion around schools. Well done to everyone who took part!



Riding to School

A friendly reminder to all families that students must wear a helmet when riding to and from school, in accordance with Australian road rules. Wearing a properly fitted helmet is essential for your child's safety and helps prevent serious head injuries in the event of a fall or accident. Please ensure your child has a suitable helmet and wears it correctly every time they ride. Let's work together to keep our students safe on the road!

Coming Together To Learn

ROAD SAFETY

Parking and Drop off around our School

The City of Hume is aware of concerning driver behaviour at school drop off and pick up times in the streets around our school. Please note that in the past few weeks the City of Hume has been undertaking regular patrols to ensure parking compliance outside of the school. Any breaches observed, have been enforced and parents will receive fines in the mail.

This is to help ensure the safety of students and staff and the broader school community. We encourage all road users to ensure that they adhere to the law to maintain the ongoing safety of everyone involved.

Remember that it is dangerous to allow your child walk across the road and not use the designated school crossing or to double park and let your child exit the car out on the street.

It is also helpful to keep moving if there is not a park where you want one. It is likely that there may be a park further up the street or around the corner. Stopping unnecessarily causes congestion and frustration for other road users while also impacting on the safety of our student crossing the road when cars stop for lengthy periods and wait for others to move on.

Coming Together To Learn

YOU AND YOUR
HAT ARE INVITED

GYPS HAT DAY PARTY

4 APRIL | 9:00am

We are excited to host a Hat Parade to celebrate the end of our school term and Easter.

Students will be creating their hats at school.

If families would like to design a hat at home with their child, they are welcome to wear it to the parade as well!

Gold coin donation in support of
The Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal





Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge

The Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge is now open and Gaayip-Yagila Primary School is excited to be taking part! Students will receive their logins next week.

The Challenge is open to all Victorian children from birth to Year 10 and aims to help young readers develop a lifelong love of reading. It is not a competition; it is a personal challenge for children to read a set number of books by 5 September 2025.

Children from Prep to Year 2 are encouraged to read or 'experience' 30 books with their parents and teachers. Children from Year 3 to Year 10 are challenged to read 15 books.

All children who meet the Challenge will receive a certificate of achievement signed by the Victorian Premier and former Premiers.

This year, the Challenge is celebrating its 20th anniversary with the theme '20 years of words and wonder' and a year of special activities. For details, follow the [Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge Facebook](#)

Since it began in 2005, more than 4.5 million young readers have taken part and together read more than 63 million books!

To read the Premier's letter to parents, view the booklist and for more information about the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge, visit www.vic.gov.au/premiers-reading-challenge

You can also contact our school's Challenge coordinator at gaayip.yagila.ps@education.vic.gov.au with any questions.

Happy reading!



PE NEWS

Earlier this term we had 7 students from GYPS wake up nice and early to compete in the District Swimming Trials. It was a great morning with a number of students trialing in freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly events.

We would like to thank all of the parent and carers who were able to bring students to the pool to compete in the event.

A big congratulations to the following students who represented GYPS & Craigieburn North, South & Greenvale District at the Woodlands Division swimming trials.

- Grace Brownley: 50m Backstroke (1st Place) & 50m Backstroke (1st Place)
- Daniel Brownley: 50m Backstroke (1st Place) & 50m Backstroke (1st Place)

We would like to wish Grace the best of luck at the Northern Metropolitan Region Trials being held on Thursday the 20th of March.



Coming Together To Learn

CELEBRATE NEURODIVERSITY

Neurodiversity Celebration Week is from Monday 17 March to Sunday 23 March, and Autism Acceptance Month is in April. These are great opportunities to celebrate the strengths of our autistic students and other diverse learners, recognise challenges they may face and learn more about how we can support them.

Our school is committed to understanding, including and celebrating our diverse learners and value the contribution they and their families make to our school.

About Neurodiversity Celebration Week

Neurodiversity Celebration Week is a worldwide initiative that celebrates the strengths and talents of people who think and learn differently. It also reminds us of the importance of being kind, accepting and inclusive of everyone.

About one in 5 children has variations in their brain development. These variations include those seen in autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), dyslexia and dyscalculia. These children can be described as 'diverse' learners.

Autism Acceptance Month

Autism Acceptance Month in April is a chance to celebrate, support and include autistic students. It is an offshoot of the United Nation's sanctioned World Autism Awareness Day on Wednesday 2 April 2025.

To mark Neurodiversity Celebration Week and Autism Acceptance Month, we would like to share some resources that support inclusion that have been developed for the Department of Education by autistic-led organisations and lead researchers in autism and neurodiversity:

- I CAN Education has tips for becoming a champion for neurodivergent students and a graphic novel to help students navigate high school
- Yellow Ladybugs' All Brains are Different program introduces the concept of neurodiversity in an affirming way
- AllPlay Learn's Inclusive School Communities: Monash University's AllPlay Learn team has developed resources on how to create inclusive school communities where everyone feels welcome and supported
- Amaze has produced videos and fact sheets for parents on how to include families of autistic children
- Positive Partnerships runs webinars and has practical tools and information sheets to support autistic students.

More support for autistic students

The department has established the Diverse Learners Hub to meet the needs of diverse learners. The hub provides evidence-based advice and resources on best-practice inclusive teaching practices for supporting autistic students and other diverse learners.

Coming Together To Learn



Meal deals

Toastie meal deal
Pasta meal deals

Hot dog meal deal
Nuggets and chips meal deal

Wednesday special – Chicken Burgers

Thursday special – Pizza



Price		Price	
Hot Food			
\$4	3 pack chicken nuggets	\$6	6 pack chicken nuggets
\$5	Penne <u>napoli</u>		Chicken noodles
\$7.50	Penne <u>bolognese</u>	\$4	3 pack steamed dim sim
	Hot dog - halal available		4 pack cocktail franks
	Large meat pie or sausage roll		6 pack vegetarian cocktail spring <u>roll</u>
\$5	2 pack of sweet chilli tenders or Vegetarian samosas		
	3 pack party pies/sausage rolls	\$0.40	Tomato, sweet chilli or soy sauce
Salads and sandwiches			
From \$3	Sandwiches and croissant– Variety of fillings.	From \$5	Variety of salads
	Toasted panini		
Snacks			
\$1.20	Seasonal fruit piece	\$2	Homemade large choc chip cookie
\$1.50	Diced fruit in juice	\$3	Jelly with a chocolate frog
\$2.50	LCM rice bubble bar, Oreo minis	\$1.50	Popcorn
	Red rock deli chips, noodle snacks	From	Homemade baked goods (muffins large and small, brownies etc)
	Pringles minis - Sour cream and onion	\$1	
\$2	Hot jam donuts	\$2.50	Crackers with carrot sticks
Beverages and Frozen items			
\$3.00	200ml juice and milk box varieties	\$1.50	Frozen orange wedges (seasonal)
\$2	600ml bottled water	\$4	Hot Chocolate/ Milkshake (seasonal)
\$1	<u>Zooper dooper</u>	\$3	Choc coated ice cream
\$2.50	99% fruit juice slushie, lemonade icy pole	\$2	<u>Smooze</u>

View item descriptions, options and place orders using the flexischools app. Dietary requirements, allergy friendly, vegetarian and halal options available.

Skip the canteen line by adding frozen items or hot chocolate/milkshakes to the lunch order. Your student will then bring their lunch order bag back to the express collection line for faster service.





LITTLE LALA LAND

KIDS GROUPS

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
Wollert, Beveridge and Mickleham
Groups for children aged 0-13



SENSORY GROUPS

MESSY ART GROUPS

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

GIRLS GROUPS

PAPER CRAFT GROUPS

.....
FOR MORE INFO GO TO
LITTLE LALA LAND ON FB AND INSTAGRAM
OR CONTACT RACHELLE ON 0414 565 044



SOFTBALL

School Holiday Program



Locations:

Dandenong Softball Association

Geelong Softball Association

Glen Eira Moorabbin Softball Association

Hume City Softball Association

Melbourne Softball Association

Northern District Softball Association

Sunshine Softball Association

TERM 2 HOLIDAYS

Time: 9am – 1pm

Scan the QR Code for more info and to register



www.softballvic.org.au/events

Cost: \$75.00pp for non members, \$50.00pp for members

Price Includes a glove and ball (or a \$25 Ausport Voucher)

