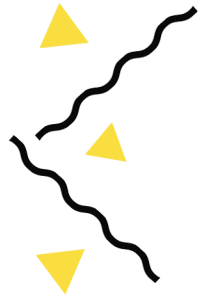


# GAAYIP-YAGILA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



THE LATEST EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR  
OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

*Dear Families,*

*Welcome to Term 1, Week 4. Thank you to all families who attended our Meet and Greet afternoon, despite the challenging heat last Monday. Your presence made the event a success, and we truly appreciate your dedication to supporting our school community and finding out more about your children's learning.*

*I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Josh, who has been instrumental in coordinating our Out of School Hours (OSHC) program through TheirCare. His dedication, hard work, and commitment to our students has truly made a difference in our school community. As Josh moves on to new adventures travelling overseas, we wish him the very best. I will keep our community informed once I am advised of the replacement co-ordinator.*

*I wish to extend my gratitude to all members of our current school council for their unwavering dedication and hard work throughout the entirety of 2023. As we prepare for the upcoming year, we have four parent vacancies for School Council in 2024. I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Louise Armstrong for her exceptional leadership as the School Council President.*

*Coming Together To Learn*

## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL – Continued

*Please be advised that nominations for parent representatives on our School Council will be distributed during the week commencing February 26th through Xuno. Nomination forms will be available for collection at the administration office. Each position carries a two-year tenure. School Council members are expected to attend eight to ten meetings per year, held on the second or third Wednesday of each month during school terms from March to February of the following year. Training sessions will be provided for newly elected School Councillors. Further details and a timeline for the School Council elections will be communicated next week*

*A friendly reminder that Thursday 29th February will be a student-free day dedicated to professional learning for our staff, focusing on behaviour management strategies. While students will not be attending classes on this day, our educators will be engaged in valuable training aimed at enhancing our approach to supporting positive behaviour within our school community.*

*A further reminder that next Monday 26th February we host our first assembly for the year. I look forward to seeing families in attendance from 2.30pm.*

*Kind Regards*

*Cassy Hoggins*

*Coming Together To Learn*

# Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

The Department administers the CSEF to help eligible families with the costs of camps, sporting activities and excursions. Payments for 2024 are \$125 per year for eligible primary school students. The payments is made directly to an eligible student's school. Applications are to be received by the school no later than 28 June 2024.

Some common examples of school-organised programs for which a CSEF payment may be used include:

- school camps/trips
- swimming and other school-organised sporting programs
- outdoor education programs
- excursions/incursions.

## Eligibility for the CSEF

·Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. A special consideration category also exists. Schools can receive applications from families by 28 June 2024.

·Families can list more than one student in the one application form if they are attending the same school.

## Submitting an application

A parent/carers will only be required to submit an application form to the school in the following circumstances:

- the parent/carers is applying for the CSEF payment for the first time – i.e. an application form was not lodged with the school in the previous year, or
- circumstances have changed – for example, there has been a change in the care arrangement of the student, a change of name or CRN, or a new sibling has started at the school and the parent/carers wishes to apply for the CSEF payment for the new sibling also.

Please see forms at the end of the news letter.

*Coming Together To Learn*

# ASSEMBLY DATES 2024

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**

Monday 26th February – 2.30pm

Monday 18th March – 2.30pm

Friday 28th March – End of term 1.30pm

## **Term 2**

Monday 6th May – 2.30pm

Monday 3rd June – 2.30pm

Friday 28th June – End of term 1.30pm

## **Term 3**

Monday 5th August – 2.30pm

Monday 2nd September – 2.30pm

Friday 20th September – 1.30pm

## **Term 4**

Monday 28th October – 2.30pm

Monday 25th November – 2.30pm

Thursday 19th December – End of Year 2.30pm

*Coming Together To Learn*



## Road Safety around Schools

As a reminder, please prioritise road safety when dropping off or picking up your children. We kindly ask that you use the designated school crossing to cross the road, rather than crossing along Blackmore Road. Your cooperation ensures the safety of everyone in our community. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

If you have concerns regarding road safety this can be raised with the Hume Council Local Laws Office.

## Collecting Students during school hours

As a school we are committed to child safety. The following processes are in place for early collection of students.

Students are to be signed out at the office by a parent/guardian. If the student is being collected by someone other than the parent/guardian, we require the parent/guardian to call the office prior to collection to authorise on each occasion.

Verification of identity using suitable photo identification (such as a driver's licence or passport) must be sighted by school personnel for every collection.

**Tip: Take a photo of your licence on your phone for easy access.**



## Student Toilets

We understand the importance of maintaining a clean and hygienic environment for our students, and we want to address any concerns you may have regarding the cleanliness of the student toilets. Our cleaning staff work diligently to ensure that these facilities are cleaned each night to uphold high standards of hygiene. Throughout the school day toilets are checked and cleaning undertaken as required.

To further support cleanliness and hygiene, we kindly ask parents to encourage proper use of the toilets by their children. By working together, we can help maintain a clean and comfortable environment for all.

*Coming Together To Learn*

# MOBILE PHONE POLICY

A reminder that the Department of Education has in place a mobile phone ban that requires students who bring mobile phones to school to have them switched off and securely put away during school hours. Smart Watches are also included in this ban.

The department is requiring all schools to ensure this ban is in place and enforced from the start of the 2024 school year.

The ban applies equally to all government schools right across the state.

This helps ensure that school is a learning environment free from unnecessary distractions and disruptions.

By ensuring mobile phones are kept away at recess and lunch times, students can interact with each other face-to-face, without the distractions and social pressures that mobile phones can cause.

I ask for the support of all our families, staff and students in continuing to support the implementation of this policy in our school.

Further information

**Exceptions:** For a small number of students with particular health needs, an exception to the policy may be granted. Please contact Nurse Daniella if you would like to discuss this.

**Emergencies:** In the event of an emergency or if you need to immediately contact your child, I ask that families contact the school office who will pass on a message as required.

**School mobile phone policy:** A copy of our school's local mobile phone policy, which implements the government's mobile policy in line with our local context, is available [here](#)

**Parent support:** The Mobile phones in schools webpage provides links to resources for families to help them balance their children's time using mobile phones.

If you have further questions, please contact the administration office.

*Coming Together To Learn*

# ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT

## CURRICULUM UPDATE

### TEACHING READING

Last year one of our newsletter articles discussed the important key components of reading known as the 'Big Six in Reading'. While our teachers explicitly teach all six components of the 'Big Six', this year we are excited to share with you that we are focusing on the way we teach Phonemic Awareness.

### WHAT IS PHONEMIC AWARENESS?

Phonemic awareness is the ability to recognize and manipulate individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words. It is a foundational skill crucial for early literacy and plays a pivotal role in a child's journey toward becoming a proficient reader. Research consistently shows that children who develop strong phonemic awareness skills are better equipped to tackle the challenges of reading and spelling.

### HEGGERTY

To enhance our explicit teaching of phonemic awareness, we are in the early stages of introducing the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Program. This research-based and teacher-friendly program is designed to help educators systematically and effectively teach phonemic awareness skills to learners.

### PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Recognizing the importance of providing your child with the best possible educational experience, we are committed to ensuring our teaching staff is well-equipped to implement the Heggerty program successfully. To achieve this, our educators are currently undergoing professional learning sessions to deepen their understanding of phonemic awareness and learn effective strategies for incorporating the Heggerty program into their daily instruction.

*Coming Together To Learn*

## WHY PHONEMIC AWARENESS MATTERS

Phonemic awareness serves as the foundation for reading and writing. These skills are important for children through all stages of learning in Primary School. By honing these skills, children can:

- Decode words more efficiently
- Improve their spelling and writing abilities
- Develop a stronger vocabulary

## HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT AT HOME

If you would like to support your child to develop their phonemic awareness at home here are a few simple ways you can support your child's phonemic awareness development:

Read Aloud: Regularly read stories together, emphasizing sounds in words.

Rhyme Time: Engage in rhyming games or activities to highlight sound patterns.

Sound Play: Encourage your child to identify individual sounds in spoken words.



**Katrina Lamers**

*Coming Together To Learn*

# AUSLAN

Guess what? We're adding Auslan (Australian Sign Language) to our school curriculum! Auslan is sign language used by many of our deaf community in Australia.

Did you know that there are two dialects?

One is the northern dialect used in Queensland and New South Wales. The other is the one that we will be learning called the southern dialect which is used in Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia.

Learning Auslan will be an amazing opportunity for our students! It means that they can communicate with the Deaf community and gain insight into its rich cultural heritage. There will also be a focus on assisting students to understand and respect others, appreciate differences, and be open to new ideas.

Exciting news! We'll be sharing some important signs in every newsletter so everyone in our school community can learn Auslan together! This week three of our incredible G.Y.P.S. students will be teaching us the signs for hello/goodbye, yes and no. Next fortnight we will be focusing on letters and practising our name.

See our Website for videos

**Amy Hicks, Ashini Nawagamuwage**



*Coming Together To Learn*



# DISTRICT SWIMMING TRIALS

On Tuesday the 13th of February we had 13 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 will be representing GYPS & Craigieburn North, South & Greenvale District in the upcoming swimming Woodlands Division swimming trials.

**Isaac Brownley: 50m Backstroke & 50m Breaststroke**

**Grace Brownley: 50m Backstroke & 50m Breaststroke**

**Daniel Brownley: 50m Backstroke**

We would like to wish these students the best of luck and look forward to hearing about their results.



**PE Team**

*Coming Together To Learn*





## ALERT: GET READY FOR THE BEST SCHOOL DAY EVER!

Hi Gaayip-Yagila Primary School families,

We've got some exciting news to share - we are holding a School Fun Run! This year, we've got our eyes set on some important fundraising goals for **sports equipment and our outdoor kitchen project**, aiming to achieve a target of \$35,000. We're reaching out to all our amazing families to join forces and make this a success. All it takes is 1. creating an online profile and 2. sharing your link with family and friends.

Please mark your calendars - we will be holding our **Fun Run** on **Friday the 22nd of March** on our school oval! Further details regarding times will be provided closer to the date.

### What is the School Fun Run?

It is an online fundraising program, where all students go home and create their own online profile. You get to pick your target prizes and work your way towards that goal. And here's the cool part - your profile comes with a unique cyber-safe link to share with your nearest and dearest, encouraging them to contribute towards reaching your target.

### What do we need you to do?

All we need you to do this week is create an online profile at [funrun.com.au](https://funrun.com.au). The class with the most profiles by **1st of March** will all get an icy pole!

This is an inclusive fundraiser we would love you to be apart of! If you would like to come down and watch your kids run, we would love to see you there!

Thank you all in advance

**PE Team**

*Coming Together To Learn*

# FESTIVALS IN FEBRUARY

## Lemon Festival, France - 17th of February – 3rd March 2024

Can you believe there's a festival dedicated to lemons, of all fruits? Definitely one of the weirder food festivals in the world! Located in the French Alps is a town known for its high quality lemons: Menton. This innovative community took celebrating local produce to a whole new level in 1934, resulting in a popular and colourful festival. Yellow colours everything, from floats, displays, sculptures and other evening shows. Don't forget to take home some of these famous citrus as well!



## Taj Mahotsav, India - 18th – 27th of February (Annually)

Like most of India's celebrations, this February festival lasts a whopping ten days! With India being such a diverse quilt of states, Taj Mahotsav is a chance for people to understand how culture, food, craft, dance and music vary across the country. It's one of the most important festivals in February.

Located in Agra, the festival brings a flood of colour, noise and visitors. Featuring furniture from Saharanpur, carpets from Bhadohi, pottery from Khurja, other arts and cuisines from all over India – it's the ultimate sampler plate.

## Jaisalmer Desert Festival, India - 22nd – 24th February 2024

Another Indian festival and international event in February not to be missed is the Jaisalmer Desert Festival. Often a monthly affair, the festivities draw plenty of tourists to Rajasthan where it is held.

You can imagine all kinds of quirky contests and still be surprised at the innovation behind them. From camel racing to turban tying and even ranking the longest moustaches in attendance, visitors can watch and participate in various activities.



## Taiwan Lantern Festival, Taiwan - 24th of February 2024

If your birthday wish hasn't come true, try your luck at the Taiwan Lantern Festival! Piggybacking off age-old Pingxi Sky Lantern Festival and Yanshui Fireworks Festival, this combination festival is spread out over the country. You know the famous flying lantern scene in Disney's Tangled? Well, you can watch the beautiful drift of lights in person. The lanterns once signaled safety but now, they carry our deepest wishes and hopes into the sky.

*Coming Together To Learn*

# Introductory Menu

|                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Pasta Meal Deal \$7</b><br>1 serve penne <u>napoli</u><br>1 drink<br>Free piece cheese and parmesan bread | <b>Mini meal \$6</b><br>1 sandwich (cheese, ham and cheese, ham cheese and tomato)<br>1 drink<br>1 mini muffin – any variety | <b>Hunger buster \$7</b><br><b>Hot dog meal</b><br>1 hot dog<br>1 drink<br>Choose a popcorn or <u>Zooper Dooper</u> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| Price                                         |                                                              | Price                       |                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hot Food – Online order only                  |                                                              |                             |                                                              |
| \$3.00                                        | Oven baked chicken nuggets (3 pack)                          | \$5.00                      | Oven baked chicken nuggets (6 pack)                          |
| \$5.00                                        | Penne Napoli – vegetarian pasta                              | \$1.20                      | Steamed dim sim                                              |
| \$5.00                                        | Cocktail <u>franks</u> (4 pack)                              | \$2.50                      | Vegetarian samosa                                            |
| \$4.00                                        | Hot dog – cheese extra \$0.50                                | \$2.00                      | Vegetarian spring roll                                       |
| \$4.50                                        | <u>Four'n</u> Twenty Meat pie                                | \$1.50                      | Party Pie                                                    |
| \$4.50                                        | <u>Four'n</u> Twenty Sausage roll                            | \$1.20                      | Party Sausage Roll                                           |
|                                               |                                                              | \$0.40                      | Tomato or soy sauce                                          |
| Salads – Online order only                    |                                                              |                             |                                                              |
| \$5.00                                        | Green Salad                                                  | \$6.50                      | Greek Salad                                                  |
| Sandwiches – Online order only                |                                                              |                             |                                                              |
| \$3.00                                        | <u>Cheese</u> , strawberry jam or vegemite                   | \$4.50                      | Salad sandwich                                               |
| \$3.50                                        | Ham and cheese                                               | \$5.00                      | Egg and lettuce                                              |
| \$4.00                                        | Ham, cheese and tomato                                       | \$5.50                      | Ham and salad, tuna and salad                                |
| Gluten free bread available – extra \$0.50    |                                                              | Roll or wrap additional \$1 |                                                              |
| Snacks – Over the counter and online order    |                                                              |                             |                                                              |
| \$1.20                                        | Fruit piece – apple, banana, mandarin                        | \$2.50                      | Pringles minis - Sour cream and onion                        |
| \$1.20                                        | Diced fruit in juice – peaches or peaches and pears          | \$1.50                      | Homemade large chocolate chip cookie                         |
| \$1.00                                        | Homemade mini muffin (low <u>sugar</u> ) <u>4</u> varieties  | \$3.00                      | Homemade large muffin (low <u>sugar</u> ) <u>4</u> varieties |
| \$2.50                                        | Dip with veggie sticks – Carrot, cucumber sticks with hummus | \$1.50                      | Popcorn – Lightly salted and sweet and salty.                |
| \$2.00                                        | Harvest snaps baked pea crisps                               | \$2.00                      | Yoplait yoghurt tub – vanilla                                |
| \$2.50                                        | Red rock deli chips – 3 varieties                            |                             |                                                              |
| Beverages - Over the counter and online order |                                                              |                             |                                                              |
| \$2.50                                        | 200ml Juice box – no added sugar apple, orange and tropical  | \$2.50                      | 200ml milk box – plain, chocolate and strawberry             |
| \$2.00                                        | 600ml bottle water                                           |                             |                                                              |
| Freezer - Over the counter and online order   |                                                              |                             |                                                              |
| \$1.00                                        | <u>Zooper Dooper</u>                                         | \$3.00                      | Paddle Pop – chocolate and rainbow                           |
| \$2.00                                        | <u>Smooze</u> – mango coconut icy                            | \$2.00                      | Lemonade icy pole                                            |
| \$1.00                                        | Frozen orange wedges                                         | \$2.50                      | 99% fruit juice slushie                                      |

View item descriptions, item options and place orders on the flexischools app.

Dietary requirements, allergy friendly, vegetarian and halal options available.  
 Further menu options will be added at the end of the introductory period.



**\*Skip the canteen line by adding frozen items to your recess or lunch online order, then use the express collection line for faster service\***



# OUR CANTEEN IS ONLINE WITH

## *flexischools*

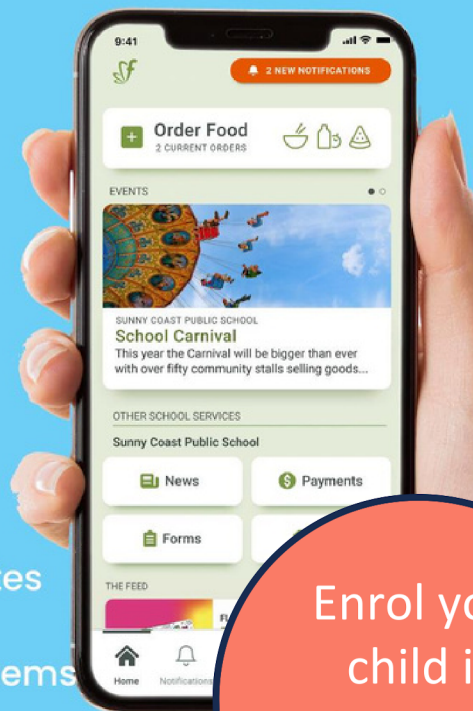


**With Flexischools, you can quickly place school orders online through the Flexischools app, which has a 4.8-star App Store rating!**

- ☒ Order and pay in seconds
- ☒ Quickly re-order your favourites
- ☒ See up-to-date menus and items

Download the app, create your account and place your next order online via Flexischools.

Order Recess and Lunch online Mon-Fri. Place your order by 9:00am.



Enrol your child in their 2024 class.



Download the app & register for Flexischools



Flexischools is provided by InLoop Pty Ltd (ABN 27 114 508 771) (trading as Flexischools) AFSL 471558. Any information provided is general only and does not take into account your objectives, financial situation or needs. Please read and consider the Combined FSG/PDS and TMD at [www.flexischools.com.au/legal](http://www.flexischools.com.au/legal) before acquiring or using the service.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

### CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$150 for primary school students
- \$250 for secondary school students

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

### HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.





# Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund APPLICATION Form

School Name

School REF ID

## Parent/legal guardian details

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town/suburb \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Contact number \_\_\_\_\_

Centrelink pensioner concession OR Health care card number (CRN)

-  -  -  OR

☐ Foster parent\* OR Veterans affairs pensioner (Gold Card)\*\*

\*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH). \*\*Applicants must provide a copy of the Veteran Affairs Gold card.

## Student details

| Child's surname | Child's first name | Student ID | Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy) | Year level |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------|----------------------------|------------|
|                 |                    |            |                            |            |
|                 |                    |            |                            |            |
|                 |                    |            |                            |            |
|                 |                    |            |                            |            |
|                 |                    |            |                            |            |
|                 |                    |            |                            |            |
|                 |                    |            |                            |            |
|                 |                    |            |                            |            |
|                 |                    |            |                            |            |

I authorise the Victorian Department of Education (DE) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry about my Centrelink customer details and concession card status to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) to provide the results of any enquiry to DE regarding temporary care orders.

I understand that:

- DFFH or Centrelink will use information I have provided to DE to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DE personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- This consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DFFH and provide it to my child's school so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- If I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DE.
- Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to DFFH and/or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You can request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date / / \_\_\_\_\_

Barcel Chess Community

# LEARN ENJOY CONNECT



**Term 1 Feb 2 to  
March 22**

**Fridays 3:30pm to  
4:30pm 8 sessions**

**Limit of 10 players**

**\$80 for Term Tuition**

**Contact : Danny**

**Email: [danbas888@gmail.com](mailto:danbas888@gmail.com)**

**Tel 0420208333**

**Mickleham North Community  
Centre**