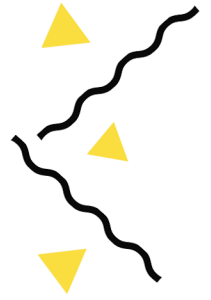


GAAYIP-YAGILA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



THE LATEST EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

Welcome to Term 4 Week 10. The end of the year is inching closer with only 2 weeks to go.

Upcoming events before the end of term include our transition morning, Year 6 graduation, final assembly and area fun days. There are so many wonderful activities still to occur and we hope our students enjoy celebrating the end of the school year.

Our Whole School Transition session will be held next week on Tuesday 13th December from 9.00am – 11.30 for Year 1 to 6 students. Our future Foundation students will also join us from 9.15am – 11.00am. This is an opportunity for students to spend time in their 2024 classes with their 2024 teachers. Classes have been formed by teachers, our wellbeing team and school leaders. We have a high level of confidence in staff to make decisions based on the best outcomes for all of our students and trust our students will settle well into their new classes in 2024. Whilst there may be some disappointment that not all student friendships requests could be accommodated (students will have at least 1 request), please support your child by discussing the positive events that happened throughout the day. We recognise that this is an opportunity to build resilience in our students. Students who are leaving us will be provided an alternate activity during transition time. Our afternoon will operate as a normal school day.

Coming Together To Learn

Next Wednesday night, our Year Six students will graduate from Gaayip-Yagila Primary School. In 2024, they start a new adventure as they continue their education as they enter Secondary School. On behalf of our entire school community congratulations to all Year Six students, we wish you all the very best in your future studies and thank you for your contribution to our great school. We look forward to celebrating your Graduation with you and your families next Wednesday 13th December.

Next Friday will be our final assembly for the year. We will announce our 2024 student School Captains and Vice Captains, as well as the recipient of our Principal Awards for the year. Assembly will begin at 2.30pm.

To our students, well done on your efforts in 2023; the growth you have shown both academically and personally is a credit to you. Similarly, to our staff, thank you for your dedication and willingness to go above and beyond for your students to ensure they have been engaged and supported in their learning achievements.

Have a wonderful fortnight.

Kind Regards

Cassy Hoggins

Coming Together To Learn

News from the School Council

Last night, School Council met for the last meeting of 2023. Our current School Council will meet again in February, before elections in March 2024. I would like to thank all the School Council members for their work over 2023. They have been dedicated and committed to continuing the good governance of our school. Thank you to all the members, including Megan Kiefer who we farewell. Megan has been our treasurer for the past 2 years.

Canteen

We are aware that many families are eager to have a canteen service operating at Gaayip-Yagila Primary School. We are excited to announce that early next year 'Nourish Canteens' will be operating from our school. School Council is working with the operator to finalise the details, but we are excited to have them onboard. Further details will be provided in the final newsletter of the year.

OSHC - TheirCare

School Council has been working with TheirCare, our Out of School Hours Care (OHSC) provider, regarding extending the service hours of a morning and afternoon to support our working families.

Through a positive consultation process the hours have been extended by 15 minutes in the morning and 30 minutes in the afternoon at no increase in fees to our families. Our focus throughout this process was to ensure that the needs of families were supported, but were not impacted financially. We also have an agreement that fees will not increase for 2 years under the arrangement.

Coming Together To Learn

2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday 12th December	State Wide Transition Day
Wednesday 13th December	Year 6 Graduation
Friday 15th December	Final school assembly 2:30pm
Friday 15th December	Reports go live 5pm
Monday 18th December	Year 5/6 Funfields Excursion
Tuesday 19th December	Amazing Race
Wednesday 20th December	Last Day of Term 4 - 1:00pm Finish

2024 TERM DATES

TERM 1	Monday 29th January (teachers return)	Thursday 28th March 2024	9 weeks
TERM 2	Monday 15th April 2024	Friday 28th June 2024	11 weeks
TERM 3	Monday 15th July 2024	Friday 20th September 2024	10 weeks
TERM 4	Monday 7th October	Friday 20th December 2024	11 weeks

Coming Together To Learn

2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The following dates have been agreed in consultation with the School Council

Monday 29th January 2024	Teachers return (Student Free)
Tuesday 30th January 2024	Year 1 – 6 students return
Tuesday 30th Jan – Thursday 1st Feb 2024	Foundation assessments (Foundation Staff)
Friday 2nd February 2024	Foundation students begin
Monday 12th February 2024	Meet and Greet 3.30 – 5.00pm
Thursday 29th February 2024	Student Free (Teacher Professional Learning – Dan Petro)
Thursday 21st March 2024	Harmony Day – Whole School event
Friday 19th April 2024	School Photos
Wednesday 22nd May 2024	Student Free (Staff Professional Practice: DET required day)
Thursday 12th September 2024	Student Free (Parent Teacher interviews 11.00am - 6.30pm)
Monday 4th November 2024	Student Free (Staff Reporting: VGSA requirement)

Coming Together To Learn

2023 Staffing

As always at the end of a school year, we have an opportunity to welcome new members to our team and say farewell to some of our current staff.

We welcome the following staff to our school for 2024:

- Zara Coghill – Classroom Teacher
- Mouna El Ayoubi – Classroom Teacher
- Vishmi Fernando – Classroom Teacher
- Mallory Perfect – Classroom Teacher
- Stacey Powell – Classroom Teacher
- Vidushi Sharda – Classroom Teacher
- Chantel Spada – Classroom Teacher
- Ryan Kimberley – Physical Education
- Katherine Finey – Leading Teacher (Student Inclusion)
- Michelle Waterman – Leading Teacher (Literacy)
- Marcus Butera – Learning Specialist
- Natasha Galea – Learning Specialist
- Jake Layley – Learning Specialist (PE)
- Bill Vasilevski – Learning Specialist

We are so pleased to welcome them to Gaayip-Yagila Primary School and I know you will join with me in congratulating staff who are leaving and those who will be joining us.

In 2024, Zoe Athanitis, Ella Johnson, Jade Guy and Ashleigh O’Keefe will be taking 12 months leave. We wish them all the best and look forward to seeing them back in 2025. Ronahi Zengin-Ozturk will begin family leave from the end of the year. Hope Ahmed, Christine Antoni, Melanie Rowley and Jaclyn Webster will all be moving on to opportunities at other settings. We thank them for their contribution to our school. Ryan Harris will also be leaving. He has been a valuable member of staff since our opening. Ryan has been an integral part of establishing our high performing PE curriculum and extra-curricular activities and hope he enjoys the sea change.

We are still finalising our recruitment processes. A full staffing profile will be shared with families early next year.

Coming Together To Learn

2024 Parent Payment Information

2024 Parent Payment information was provided to families on Tuesday 21st November via Xuno. A hard copy payment slip was also provided to the eldest in the family. The ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education for our students. If you did not receive this information or you have misplaced the payment slip please speak with our administration team. Thank you to our families who have returned their payment slip and already made a payment.

Preferred payment is via BPay or Credit Card. The last day for cash payments in 2023 will be Friday 15th December. Credit Card payments will be accepted at the administration office until the end of term.

Planning for 2024

At present, we are planning for approximately 1050 students across 50 classes in 2024. This will see a decline in our current enrolment due to the opening of Yabup PS. Whilst our student enrolment is declining, we will see an increase in the number of classes to ensure we continue to allow for growth throughout the year. In 2024, we anticipate having the following class structure:

- Foundation (eight classes)
- Year One (ten classes)
- Year Two (eight classes)
- Year Three (eight classes)
- Year Four (six classes)
- Year Five (five classes)
- Year Six (five classes)
- Specialist subjects: The Arts, Physical Education, Science, Library
- Support roles: Learning Support, Tutor Program, Mental Health Initiative in Primary Schools

Students will be advised of their class and teacher at the transition day Tuesday 12th December.

Coming Together To Learn

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT

CURRICULUM UPDATE

EXPLICIT DIRECT INSTRUCTION

Over the past term, the Year 4 team has been engaged in a trial centered around the implementation of Explicit Direct Instruction (EDI) in the teaching of mathematics. This shift reflects our commitment to staying at the forefront of effective teaching methods, ensuring that our students receive the best possible education.

What is Explicit Direct Instruction?

Explicit Direct Instruction is a research-based teaching methodology that focuses on clearly and systematically delivering lessons, making every step of the learning process explicit and transparent. It involves breaking down complex concepts into manageable steps, providing clear explanations, and offering guided practice to reinforce understanding. This approach is designed to enhance student engagement, comprehension, and retention.

Recognizing the importance of a solid foundation in mathematics, our Year 4 educators have enthusiastically embraced EDI to address specific challenges and enhance the overall learning experience. The systematic and explicit nature of this method aligns with our goal of fostering a deep understanding of mathematical concepts among our students.

Key Highlights so far:

- 1. Clear Instructional Objectives:** Each lesson begins with clearly defined learning objectives, ensuring that students understand the purpose and expectations from the outset.
- 2. Step-by-Step Guidance:** Complex mathematical concepts are broken down into manageable steps, allowing students to grasp each component before moving on to the next.
- 3. Active Student Participation:** EDI encourages active student participation through guided practice, interactive discussions, and collaborative problem-solving activities.
- 4. Continuous Assessment:** Regular assessments are integrated to gauge student progress, identify areas for improvement, and provide timely feedback to both students and educators.

While it is still early in the trial process, initial feedback from both educators and students has been positive. Students are expressing a heightened sense of confidence in tackling mathematical challenges, and educators are witnessing increased engagement and understanding in the classroom.

Katrina Lamers

Coming Together To Learn

SCIENCE NEWS

The Science Team would like to thank everyone in the community for their support while we launched our Science program as a Specialist subject for the first time! Completing the first year of a new subject area is a huge achievement and every single student should be incredibly proud of themselves for embracing Science and becoming the budding young Scientists they are today.

We can't wait to see what 2024 brings in Science!

As we reflect on our year, some key highlights really stand out that we would like to celebrate with you. These include our Foundation Science Day, Year 12 Incursion by Yarra Valley Water and The Dinosaur fossil exploration day along with a year of exciting activities and experiments throughout our weekly lessons.

Most recently our Year 56 Excursion went to the The Victorian Space Science Education Centre (VSSEC). What a privilege to be welcomed into a scenario-based learning environment that engaged the students in a wide range of Science activities. They used computer and communications technology and built core skills while working collaboratively. Students worked in Mission Control and at the M.A.R.S. Base.



The 2023 Science Team wishes you all a safe and happy holidays!

From Mrs Hill, Mrs Pongrac, Miss Hicks, Miss Marshall and Miss Hogg

Coming Together To Learn

VISUAL ARTS NEWS

In Visual Arts we're wrapping up the year by learning about monoprinting, a print-making process where the image can only be made once, unlike other print-making processes which allow for multiple original images to be made. Students experimented with using simple materials such as markers and foil or plastic to create marbled, tie-dye effects to create either a rainbow parrot inspired by *How the Birds got their Colours* by Mary Albert or to design their own tie-dye t-shirt or jersey.

Students have also been taking home their artwork and visual art diaries from 2024 this week, so please keep an eye out for that. We know the students are really proud of the results of their hard work and are very excited to share it with their families.

We hope everyone has a safe and creative holidays!



The Visual Arts Team
Marni Harris and Ilkay Yagcioglu

Coming Together To Learn