

NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING DATES

- **Friday 18th September**
Last Day of Term 3 – 2:30 Finish
- **Monday 5th October**
First Day of Term 4
- **Friday 9th October**
Pevan and Sarah Excursion – Foundation
- **Monday 2nd November**
Curriculum Day – Report Writing Day – No School
- **Tuesday 3rd November**
Melbourne Cup Day – No School

At Gladstone Views Primary School our Vision is to create the productive citizens of the future.

Our mission is to partner with the community to assist every student to become literate, numerate, healthy and socially responsible people in a caring, safe, supportive, stimulating and challenging environment.

We are proud of our Community School values and expect all members of our school community to be Respectful, Safe, Kind and Continual Learners in their daily lives.



Principal's Message



Dear GVPS Community,

As I write to you, Term 3 is quickly coming to a close. It certainly feels like we have experienced every season here in Gladstone Park over the past few weeks, with the weather keeping us all guessing! Despite the unpredictable conditions, it has been another busy and exciting term at GVPS, with many wonderful opportunities for our students and families.

One of the highlights of the term for me was having the opportunity to attend the San Francisco 49ers training camp with our Grade 5 students on Monday. This was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience for our students, giving them the opportunity to experience American football alongside representatives from one of the world's most recognised NFL teams. The enthusiasm and excitement from our students throughout the day was fantastic, and they represented GVPS exceptionally well.

We also recently celebrated Father's Day, with our students enjoying the opportunity to purchase special gifts for the important people in their lives. It was wonderful to see the excitement on their faces as they carefully selected their gifts. Our Kindergarten students also celebrated with a special afternoon of song and dance for the adults in their lives on Wednesday. Their performances were a wonderful celebration and a lovely opportunity for our youngest students to share their talents with their families.

Book Week was another exciting time at GVPS as we celebrated our love of reading, books and the wonderful world of imagination. The Book Week Parade was certainly a highlight, with our students and staff embracing the opportunity to dress up as their favourite characters. It was fantastic to see the creativity and enthusiasm across the school and to celebrate the joy that books can bring.

We are looking forward to our Footy Colours Day on Friday 18 September. Students are encouraged to come dressed proudly in the colours of their favourite sporting team as we celebrate our love of sport and teamwork. Our special assembly will commence at 1:45pm, followed by a 2:30pm dismissal.

Finally, I would like to thank our students, staff and families for their continued support throughout Term 3. It has been another busy term filled with learning, celebrations, challenges and many memorable moments.

I wish everyone a safe, relaxing and enjoyable holiday break. Take the opportunity to rest, spend time with family and friends, and enjoy some well-deserved downtime.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back for Term 4 on Monday 5 October.

Have a wonderful break!

Alex Mowat
Principal

Grade Splitting – An Update for Families

I would like to provide an update regarding grade splitting and explain why, from time to time, students may be placed in another classroom for a day or for part of a day.

Unfortunately, the need to disperse students across other classes is a part of school life in government schools. Teachers can be absent due to illness or other circumstances, and teachers also need to be released from face-to-face teaching at times to participate in professional learning, planning, preparation, meetings and other important professional responsibilities.

Schools have access to Casual Relief Teachers (CRTs) to cover teacher absences and release time. However, there are times when there is limited availability of CRTs, particularly when there is high demand across schools. We are also required to operate within our school budget and, importantly, schools are not funded to employ additional teachers simply to provide additional staffing for unexpected absences or release time.

As a result, there are occasions when we need to split a class and distribute students across other classrooms. When doing this, we must carefully consider class size requirements, student needs, available staffing and supervision to ensure that we continue to meet our responsibilities to our students.

We understand that having students work in another classroom is not ideal and that it can sometimes be disruptive to their learning. Wherever possible, teachers provide students with appropriate learning activities to complete while they are in another classroom. Where students are placed in a classroom within the same year level, they may also participate in the learning already planned for that class.

While CRTs play an important role in supporting schools, they are not always familiar with our students, school routines, expectations and individual learning needs. This can present additional challenges, particularly when a regular classroom teacher is unexpectedly absent.

Our priority whenever staffing changes occur is to ensure that students are appropriately supervised, safe and engaged in activities. Splitting classes is not a decision we make lightly, but at times it is necessary to ensure we can provide adequate supervision when a teacher cannot be replaced.

We appreciate that this can be frustrating for students, families and staff, and we thank our school community for their understanding. Staffing challenges and the availability of CRTs are issues experienced by many government schools, and we will continue to manage these situations as carefully and thoughtfully as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns the best place to start is your child's classroom teacher.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding as we work to provide the best possible learning environment for all of our students.

Industrial Action and VGSA

The period of industrial action appears to be drawing to a close following the strong endorsement by Australian Education Union (AEU) members of the proposed Victorian Government Schools Agreement (VGSA) 2026.

AEU members voted overwhelmingly to accept the Victorian Government's latest pay and conditions offer, with 79% voting in favour. As a result, the planned industrial action for Wednesday 19 August did not proceed.

The next step is for the proposed VGSA 2026 to be put to a ballot of all employees covered by the Agreement, as required under the Fair Work Act. This ballot is expected to take place next week. The Agreement cannot be formally approved and take effect until this process has been completed and the proposed Agreement is subsequently approved by the Fair Work Commission.

It is hoped that this process will provide greater certainty for staff and schools and bring an end to the extended period of negotiations and industrial action. The proposed Agreement includes significant changes to remuneration and working conditions, including measures intended to address workload and support staff wellbeing.

Kindergarten on School Site (KOSS)

Our Kindergarten on School Site (KOSS) project continues to progress well. The building has now been fully approved and formally handed over to Northern Schools, who have commenced moving furniture and equipment into the facility in preparation for the commencement of kindergarten operations in Term 4.

Construction of the Foundation playground and Gaynor Street entrance has also been completed. A number of safety issues have been identified in these areas and will need to be rectified prior to formal handover. We hope these facilities will officially open once the kindergarten commences operations in Term 4.

Artists have continued their work on the shared school and kindergarten mural, which is now nearing completion. The mural will become a lasting feature of the site and celebrate the connection between our two learning communities.

The final stages of the project will also include repurposing sections of the temporary construction fencing for use within the school, where appropriate. This will allow us to make practical use of existing materials while improving fencing and delineation in selected areas of the school grounds.

Staff Car Park Update

We are pleased to have the **staff car park returned to school use** following the completion of works in this area. At this stage, the car park remains designated primarily for staff use, while also being accessible to approved visitors, deliveries and people with accessibility or additional needs requirements.

We understand that some families who access **Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)** in the morning and afternoon would appreciate being able to use the car park for drop-off and pick up. Unfortunately, due to a number of safety concerns experienced in the past, we are not in a position to open the car park for general family use at this time.

These concerns have included children moving through the car park between vehicles, vehicles travelling too quickly, the designated loop not being used as intended, inappropriate or illegal parking, and vehicles following staff members through the entry point. There have also been occasions where staff attempting to address unsafe driving behaviour have experienced inappropriate responses.

Our primary responsibility is to ensure the safety of our students, families and staff. With young children moving around the school and car park area, even a momentary lapse in attention or an unsafe driving decision can have serious consequences. For this reason, **I am not willing to introduce additional traffic into the car park while these safety concerns remain.**

We appreciate that this may be inconvenient for some families, particularly those accessing OSHC, and we understand the desire for a more convenient drop-off arrangement. However, the safety of our students and community must remain our highest priority.

We will continue to monitor the use of the car park and review arrangements as appropriate. In the meantime, we ask all families to follow the designated drop-off and pick-up arrangements at Ginifer reserve and to drive carefully and patiently around the school grounds.

Thank you for your understanding and for helping us keep **our students, families and staff safe.**

Divisional Athletics Update

On the 3rd September, we had 16 Gladstone Views Primary School students compete at the Divisional Athletics Championships at Meadowglen in Epping.

It was certainly a day of seasons! We experienced sunshine, rain, more rain, sunshine again, and then even more rain! Despite the changing weather conditions, our students showed incredible determination, tried their very best and represented our school with great pride.

We are extremely proud to announce that six of our students earned ribbons in their respective events:

- 🏅 Lizelle Le Roux – 3rd Place – Long Jump
- 🏅 Sia Evans – 2nd Place – Triple Jump
- 🏅 Lyrix Hegarty – 2nd Place – Triple Jump
- 🏅 Zoe Manefield – 2nd Place – High Jump
- 🏅 Flynn Lawes – 2nd Place – Long Jump
- 🏅 Charlotte Harmes – 2nd Place – Triple Jump



A huge congratulations to these students on their fantastic achievements!

Our five second-place getters will now progress to the Regional Athletics Championships, which will take place in Week 2 of Term 4. We wish them all the very best as they continue their athletics journey!

Well done to every student who competed today. You should all be incredibly proud of the effort, resilience and sportsmanship you demonstrated throughout the day.

A special thank you to Miss Temming for supporting me and our students on the day, as well as all the families who came along to cheer on and support our athletes.

Congratulations, everyone! We are incredibly proud of you all! 🏆



Italian Poetry Competition

We are excited to announce that a group of Gladstone Views Primary School students will be representing our school at the upcoming **Italian Poetry Competition**, held at **Gladstone Park Secondary College on Tuesday, 20th October**.

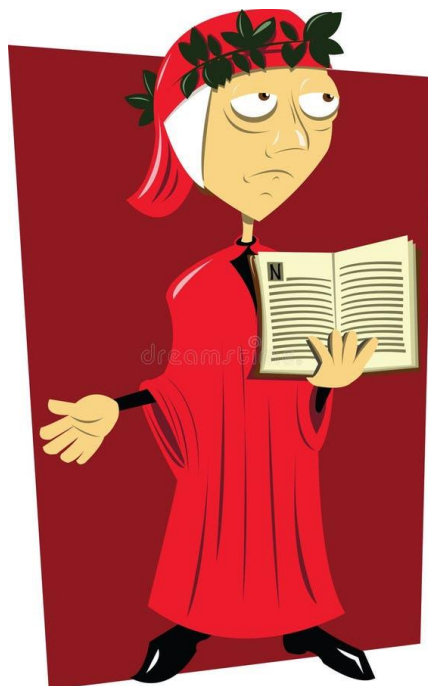
Our talented Grade 5 and Grade 6 students will showcase their Italian language skills by reciting poems based on Le quattro stagioni (The Four Seasons).

Grade 5 Participants

- **Jude Keil** – Summer
- **Olivia Maybury** – Autumn
- **Madeline Fielder** – Spring
- **Charlotte Harmes** – Summer

Grade 6 Participants

- **Mikayla Micallef** – Autumn
- **Lewie Mason** – Spring
- **Alena Di Fabio** – Winter
- **Andrew Shanks** – Summer



We are incredibly proud of all of our students who have been selected to represent Gladstone Views Primary School. We look forward to supporting them as they prepare for what is sure to be a fantastic event!

In bocca al lupo to all of our participants!

SunSmart

As we move into the warmer months, our SunSmart period is now in place across the school. This applies to both students and teachers and reinforces our commitment to protecting our school community from excessive sun exposure.

During this period, students are expected to wear their school hats when outdoors, and staff are encouraged to model SunSmart practices. We will continue to promote the importance of sun protection through appropriate clothing, shade, sunscreen and limiting exposure during the strongest periods of UV.

These measures are an important part of keeping our students and staff safe and well while they enjoy the warmer weather and outdoor learning opportunities.

Road Safety and Traffic Management

Road safety remains a significant advocacy priority for our school. We continue to work closely with Hume City Council regarding traffic and pedestrian safety, particularly along Carrick Drive and in the surrounding area.

Katie and I recently met with Joel Kimber, Community Liaison Manager at Hume City Council, to discuss the unique traffic and pedestrian safety concerns experienced by our school community. The discussion provided an opportunity to outline concerns that may not necessarily be identified through traditional traffic studies and to advocate for solutions that consider the specific circumstances around our school.

As a next step, we intend to meet with Council's traffic engineering team to further explain the issues and explore potential safety improvements. We will continue to advocate for practical measures that improve safety for students, families and staff, particularly during peak drop-off and pick-up times.

We are also grateful for the support of Josh Bull, who continues to assist us in advocating for these matters at the local government level.

Council has previously advised that works at Ginifer Reserve were expected to be completed during August. We will continue to monitor the impact of these works and remain engaged with Council as we pursue further improvements to road and pedestrian safety around the school.

Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and congratulate Emma Truglia on the successful management of our Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) program during this important period of transition.

Emma has continued to manage the service professionally, with a strong focus on maintaining quality care and supporting our families throughout the handover period. This work has been supported by Sam Hills, Angelina Karakitsos, our new Education Support staff member supporting OSHC, and Shelby Coall, whose contributions have assisted in maintaining the smooth operation of the service.

The Expression of Interest (EOI) process for prospective OSHC providers is now nearing completion, with the submission period closing shortly. We look forward to reviewing the applications received and developing a shortlist of suitable providers. Shortlisted organisations will then be invited to meet with School Council as part of the next stage of the procurement process.

The intention is for a third-party provider to commence operation of the OSHC service from the beginning of 2027, subject to the completion of the procurement and School Council approval processes.

In the meantime, Emma and the team will continue to manage the service and provide continuity for our students, families and staff.

NFL Clinic – Year 5 Students

Our Year 5 students were incredibly fortunate to participate in a special NFL clinic hosted by the San Francisco 49ers at Gladstone Park Secondary College.

This was a truly unique opportunity for our students to experience American football and participate in activities led by representatives of one of the NFL's most recognised teams.

We were extremely proud of the way our students engaged throughout the clinic, demonstrating enthusiasm, respect and teamwork while representing Gladstone Views Primary School. Their behaviour and participation reflected our school values and were a wonderful example of our students making the most of an exceptional opportunity.

The experience also generated significant media interest, with several of our students featuring in the San Francisco 49ers' social media coverage, and footage of the event expected to feature on television news.

It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to represent GVPS on a much larger stage, and we look forward to sharing further footage and highlights with our school community.

