

NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING DATES

- **Wednesday 13th May**
ES Celebration Day
- **Friday 15th May**
Interschool Sport vs Gladstone Park - Home
- **Friday 15th May**
Walk safely to school day
- **Monday 19th May**
Classroom Open morning
9:00am - 9:15am for education week
- **Wednesday 21st May**
Year 1/2 Melbourne Museum and IMAX
- **Friday 22nd May**
Interschool Sport vs Westmeadows – Home
- **Monday 25th May**
School Photo catch up day
- **Thursday 19th May**
Classroom Open morning
- **Friday 26th June**
Last Assembly for Term 2
13:45 – 14:30

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, we have certainly noticed a change in the weather, with a cold and wet snap arriving across Gladstone Park. I encourage all students to continue bringing warm clothing, jackets and school beanies as we move further into the winter months.

This week, it was wonderful to celebrate the special people in our lives through our Mother's Day card-making evening and Mother's Day Stall. These events brought great joy to our students and community, and I would like to sincerely thank all parent and community volunteers who generously gave their time to help make these occasions so successful. Your support is greatly appreciated.

As you may be aware, the school has also been participating in the **Jump Rope for Heart** program as part of our Physical Education curriculum. We are incredibly proud to share that students who have already signed up have currently raised **\$1,253** for this important cause. There is still time for families to register and get involved — please see Class Dojo for sign-up details and further information. The program will culminate in a whole-school **Jump Off Event** in June, with more details to follow in the coming weeks.

We are also pleased to welcome back Maria Varvarkis from leave, who has rejoined our specialist team working in The Arts.

To all members of our community celebrating this Sunday, I wish you a very happy Mother's Day and hope you enjoy a special day with loved ones.

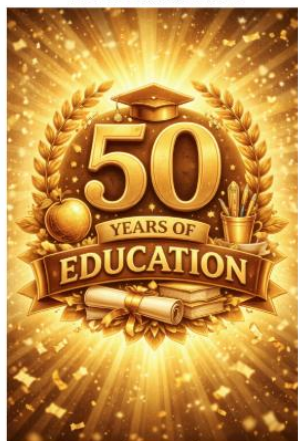


New School Auto Gate

You may have noticed our new auto gate at the Carrick Drive entrance of the school. The widening of the gate has improved foot traffic, flow for bikes, scooters and prams, making a significant difference to safety, particularly during school pick-up times.

The gate operates between **7:00am–9:15am** and **3:15pm–6:00pm**.

If you need to access the school outside of these times, please use the black intercom button, which will connect you directly to the school office.



1976 to 2026

GVPS 50 Years Celebration Community Twilight Event

The Countdown to November is on!

In November, Gladstone Views Primary School will proudly celebrate **50 years of education, community, and memories** with a special **Community Twilight Event** — and planning is already underway for what promises to be an unforgettable evening for past and present families, students, staff, and the wider community.

This milestone celebration will bring our community together for a vibrant evening filled with:

- ✦ Entertainment
- ✦ Food stalls and community vendors
- ✦ Family activities and rides
- ✦ Special performances and displays
- ✦ Opportunities to reconnect and celebrate 50 years of GVPS history

One of the most exciting features of the event will be **“50 Stories for 50 Years”** — a special exhibition showcasing treasured memories and stories from former students, staff, and families. These stories will be professionally displayed around the school as part of a commemorative framed exhibition celebrating the rich history of GVPS.

A major highlight of the evening will be the unveiling of the **GVPS Family Name Bricks**, creating a lasting legacy within our school community while also serving as the event’s major fundraising initiative.

The event is planned as a ticketed twilight celebration, with contingency arrangements being developed to ensure the event can proceed smoothly in all weather conditions. School Council will also be working alongside local businesses, community members, and community partners to help bring this exciting celebration to life.

Save the date — November 2026

🔗 More details, ticket information, and opportunities to get involved will be shared throughout the year as the countdown continues!

School Tours

Since February, we have been hosting school tours for prospective families, with each tour very well attended by 15–20 families. Tours have been offered both after school and during school hours.

We are pleased to see growing interest from families outside the GVPS school boundary. Feedback has been very positive, with families commenting on the welcoming cultural feel of the school, the opportunity to speak to Foundation teachers, inviting classroom learning spaces, and our strong commitment to student wellbeing.

For families considering enrolment outside of the GVPS zone, we encourage you to also visit your local school to ensure you are making an informed choice. If Gladstone Views is your school of choice, we are very happy to accept your enrolment.

Education Support Celebration

We look forward to celebrating Education Support Staff Day later this month, recognising the invaluable contribution of our Education Support staff. Their dedication, care and expertise play a vital role in supporting student learning, wellbeing and inclusion across our school.

We thank our Education Support team for the important work they do each and every day and for the positive difference they make within the GVPS community.

Walk to school safely day – 15 May

Our Walk to School Safely initiative, held on 15 May, encourages students to focus on personal safety, active travel, and community responsibility. This event promoted healthy habits while reinforcing key messages about being alert, following road safety rules, and making safe choices when travelling to and from school.

Principals' conference

From 29 April to 1 May, Mim and I attended the Merri-bek Principals' Network Conference in Creswick. The conference provided an excellent opportunity to connect with colleagues, reflect on current educational priorities, and learn from leading experts in leadership, performance and wellbeing.

Across the conference, presentations focused on instructional leadership, high-impact teaching, resilience, conflict resolution and sustaining high performance in complex environments. The experience provided valuable insights and strong connections to continuous improvement and wellbeing within schools.

Education week 2026 – GVPS Community Update

Education Week is an annual celebration of public education in Victoria, and in 2026 it will be held from Monday 18 May to Friday 22 May. This year's theme, “**Showcase your school,**” encourages schools across the state to celebrate what makes their community unique and special.

At GVPS, we will take this opportunity to highlight the many things that make our school such a great place to learn and grow – our people, our learning environments, our values, and our strong sense of community.

Throughout the week, we are planning a range of activities, including:

- An open day and opportunities for families to visit classrooms and see learning in action
- Student activities where children can draw or write about what they love most about GVPS, with recognition through Dojo and school reward points
- Celebrating the best of our school through our values and positive learning culture
- An assembly to acknowledge and celebrate what makes our school unique also
- recognising and thanking our long-serving staff, volunteers, and community members who support our school each and every day.

Education Week provides a wonderful opportunity for us to come together and celebrate public education and the many successes of our school community. We look forward to sharing more details and celebrating with you throughout the week.

Smartwatches at GVPS

At GVPS, smartwatches that can call, message, access apps, or connect to the internet are considered personal digital devices and must remain switched off or on airplane mode during school hours, in line with Department of Education policy.

GVPS applies clear local expectations to support consistency and safety. Smartwatches may be worn; however, they must not be used during the school day for communication, notifications, recording, games, or apps. Where a student uses a device inappropriately and in breach of the GVPS Acceptable Use Agreement, the device may be confiscated and either returned directly to a parent/carer or sent home with the student. Repeated breaches may result in a student being directed not to bring or wear the device to school.

These expectations help support student learning, wellbeing, safety, and positive social interaction by reducing distractions and encouraging responsible technology use. We thank families for their ongoing support in maintaining a calm, safe, and focused learning environment at GVPS.

ANZAC Day Commemoration - GVPS

On Friday 24 April, GVPS came together to commemorate ANZAC Day, a significant occasion of remembrance for all Australians and New Zealanders who have served in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations.

Students engaged in respectful learning experiences that encouraged reflection on courage, sacrifice, resilience, and service, as well as acknowledging the ongoing impact on service personnel and their families.

We also recognised the service of First Nations peoples and members of the Defence Force community and honoured their contributions and sacrifices.

A special connection for GVPS is the legacy of former student Cameron Baird VC, whose courage and service continue to inspire our school community.

We also held an assembly on Monday 27 April, where our student leaders led the ANZAC Day reflection for our school community.

The commemoration provided students with a meaningful opportunity to deepen their understanding of ANZAC Day and its ongoing significance.

Kinder On School Site (KOSS) School Mural & Kinder Update

Artist Samantha Richards recently met with Principal Alex Mowat and Mental Health and Wellbeing Practitioner Kristy Holmes to review the KOSS school mural project and ensure it reflects the values, identity, and vision of the school community.

The Student Voice Leaders group (23 students) has been selected to participate in upcoming learning and design sessions. These include an education session in May 2026 exploring cultural symbols and art, a preliminary design review later in May, and a school assembly in June 2026 where the completed mural will be presented and discussed.

Two potential mural locations were also reviewed: the front of the school beneath existing signage, and a side wall leading toward the new KOSS building incorporating existing student handprints.

In addition, the Kinder building modules are scheduled for delivery and installation between 18–22 May 2026. Preparations are underway, including review of the crane lift plan and coordination with Fleetwood to ensure safe site arrangements for students, staff, and contractors during the installation period.

Please note that there will be an increased number of trucks accessing the school site from the northern end of Carrick Drive on 18 and 19 May 2026 as part of the module delivery process. Traffic management will be in place along Carrick Drive to support safe vehicle movement and minimise disruption to the community. Delivery scheduling has been carefully planned around school drop-off and pick-up times to reduce impact on families and local traffic flow. There will be no impact to access or use of the Jack Ginifer Reserve car park during this time.



ONLINE SAFTY INFORMATION



As technology becomes an increasingly important part of learning and everyday life, it is essential that we work together—school and home—to support students in using digital tools safely, responsibly, and respectfully.

BE A LEARNER · BE RESPECTFUL · BE KIND · BE SAFE

As a community, what do we need to consider when our children are online?

- Monitor online safety at home, supervise the use apps & games and be aware of the content, use parental controls & encourage open conversations
- Positive Online Behaviour, be respectful, always think before posting & protect personal info
- Healthy Technology Habits, set screen limits, possible tech-free times at home, encourage breaks
- Recognising online Risks, cyberbullying, strangers online, inappropriate content, scams

RESOURCES

- **ESAFETY COMMISSIONER** [HTTPS://WWW.ESAFETY.GOV.AU/](https://www.esafety.gov.au/)

-Covers:
-Cyberbullying
-Social media
-Gaming
-Screen time
-Parental controls



- **LET'S TALK ABOUT BEING SAFE ONLINE (ONLINE PDF BOOK)**

- **ESAFETY COMMISSIONER GAMING GUIDE** [HTTPS://WWW.ESAFETY.GOV.AU/PARENTS/ISSUES-AND-ADVICE/GAMING](https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/issues-and-advice/gaming)

-Helps parents understand
-Online gaming features
-Chat functions
-In-game purchases
-Practical tips for managing gaming safely

TOP TIPS FOR CYBER SAFETY



- [HTTPS://WWW.CHILDSAFE.ORG.AU/HELP-FOR-FAMILIES/E-SAFETY-ONLINE](https://www.childsafe.org.au/help-for-families/e-safety-online)

ONLINE SAFETY IN VICTORIAN SCHOOLS

GVPS works to keep students safe online by following the Victorian schools Department of Education (DET) policies to ensure students are safe when using digital technologies.

To support this, GVPS:

- Teaches digital citizenship and safe online behaviours across year levels
- Uses filters and monitored networks to reduce exposure to inappropriate content
- Implements Acceptable Use Agreements that outline clear expectations for students
- Follows Child Safe Standards to protect students' wellbeing in all environments, including online
- Has policies and procedures to respond to cyberbullying or unsafe online behaviour



BALANCED DIGITAL LIFE

- Keep devices in shared family spaces so usage is easier to see. set screen time limits and build simple routines that balance online time with movement, sports, or time outdoors.
- Explore new games or apps with children to learn about their digital world. Create a tech agreement using tools like the e-safety commission's family tech agreement. Please contact the school if you need any support.