

NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING DATES

- **Friday 19th September**
Last day of Term 3 – Footy Colours Day
Assembly 1:45pm
2:30pm finish
- **Monday 06th October**
Curriculum Day
- **Tuesday 07th October**
Students return to school – Term 4
- **Wednesday 8th October**
Foundation Pevan and Sarah Concert
- **Friday 10th October**
Space week Dress up day
- **Wednesday 22nd October**
School Council
- **Thursday 30th October**
Foundation Transition session 1
9:15 – 10:15
- **Monday 03rd November**
Curriculum Day – Report Writing Day
- **Tuesday 04th November**
Melbourne Cup Day
- **Wednesday 5th - 7th November**
Dental Van
- **Friday 07th November**
Foundation & 1/2 Stay late
- **Tuesday 18th – 28th November**
Year 1/2 Swimming Program

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 Families,

As I wrote to you, we had entered Spring and were approaching the end of Term 3. I hoped all families had the opportunity to celebrate Father's Day and the special people in their lives on Sunday. At GVPS, we also enjoyed our Father's Day Card Making Evening and Father's Day Stall, both of which were very well attended. A heartfelt thank you went to our parent and carer volunteer community for generously giving their time and energy to support these events — they simply would not have been possible without them.

On Friday, our school came together for a Teddy Bear Picnic, organised by our Student Voice Leaders. It was wonderful to see student leadership in action, with our young leaders taking responsibility for planning and running a whole-school event. A big thank you also went to all of our community volunteers for helping make these occasions possible.

During this time, our educational team was also hit by bouts of illness, which led to higher than usual staff absenteeism. At this stage of the year, Casual Relief Teachers were hard to come by, and with Miss Mim and Miss Kristy on leave, our school faced additional challenges. We did our best to ensure our students continued to have teachers in front of them so that learning could carry on with minimal disruption.

That week we also farewelled our Year 5/6 campers, who headed off to Mount Evelyn. Our bi-annual camping program was an important part of our school's commitment to building independence, teamwork, and resilience. Looking ahead, our Year 3/4s would enjoy their camp in 2026, followed by Year 5/6 camp again in 2027. Meanwhile, our Year 1/2s would take part in their school-based camping experience – the Stay Late – on Friday, 7 November.

Alongside these events, we continued to prioritise engagement and wellbeing programs at GVPS.

Our Year 5/6 students participated in a therapeutic program led by Mr Pat, which combined emotional literacy and wellbeing skills with traditional martial arts training. This was very well received by students.

Our Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) groups, led by Mrs Andrea Evans, also ran this term. These small groups provided targeted support to help students develop self-regulation, navigate social situations, and build confidence.

We were thrilled to welcome back our much-loved Paw Pals Canine Therapy Program. The therapy dogs brought comfort, calm, and joy to our students, continuing to have a positive impact on emotional regulation and wellbeing.

We also launched new wellbeing initiatives that integrated movement, mindfulness, and teamwork through physical education, including the 'Box Education: Gloves Up' program, to further support health and engagement.

In sport, our Athletics Team proudly represented GVPS at the District Athletics Event at Meadowglen Athletics Track on Tuesday. Some of our students then moved ahead and participated at Division Athletics.

As we looked forward to Term 4, starting for our students on Tuesday, 7 October, we prepared to celebrate Space Week with a Space Week Dress-Up Day on Friday, 10 October. Our Foundation students also had their very special and secret excursion to look forward to on Wednesday, 8 October.

I wished everyone a safe and enjoyable two-week break from school with family and friends.

Tullamarine Primary School Visit – Literacy Focus

Last week, we welcomed a group of teachers from **Tullamarine Primary School**, who visited GVPS to observe our **Literacy approach in action**. GVPS has been implementing the **DET Phonics Approach** for the past three years with fantastic results in reading, writing, and grammar.

The DET Phonics Approach is based on **Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP)** and includes:

- **Explicit Teaching** – Direct instruction in phonics and phonemic awareness.
- **Phonemic Awareness** – Students learn to hear, identify, and manipulate individual sounds in words.
- **Grapheme-Phoneme Correspondences** – Students learn the links between letters (graphemes) and sounds (phonemes).
- **Blending and Segmenting** – Students combine sounds to read words and break words into sounds to spell them.
- **Decodable Texts** – Books that allow students to practice learned letter-sound patterns.
- **Daily Instruction** – A minimum of 25 minutes of explicit phonics instruction in Foundation to Year 2.

The Tullamarine staff were very complimentary of our work. GVPS students are showing strong progress, and our literacy program is **ahead of many other local government schools**.

2025 Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey

Friendly Reminder – 2025 Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey

We are currently inviting families to take part in the annual Department of Education Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey. This survey provides valuable feedback on school climate, student behaviour, and engagement. It takes approximately 20 minutes to complete and is open until Friday, 19 September 2025. Families can access the survey through the COMPASS notification sent earlier this term. We encourage all families to share their voice — your input is greatly appreciated.

As we approach the end of term, we look forward to our Footy Day Fundraiser on Thursday, 19 September. Our final school assembly will begin at 1:45pm, with student dismissal at 2:30pm from classrooms. Families are warmly invited to join us as our students perform their end-of-term song.

A friendly reminder that Term 4 begins at GVPS on Tuesday 7 October and we look forward to Space Week at GVPS for week 1 Term 4.

Thank you for your continued support in making GVPS such a vibrant, connected, and caring school community.

Update on OSHC Program – Gladstone Views Primary School

We are very pleased to share some **exciting news** with our school community — our **school-based Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) program will continue into 2026**. This is a great outcome for our families and students, as it ensures continuity of care within our school environment.

In the last newsletter, I outlined the **financial challenges** facing the OSHC program and the decision of the School Council to commission a review. That review has now been completed, and I would like to update you on the findings and next steps.

- The program has been operating at a **financial loss for the past two years** (including a \$14,000 loss in 2024), with almost \$50,000 in outstanding user fees.
- **Staffing costs** are approximately \$150,000 annually, in addition to expenses for food, resources, and the Holiday Program.
- **Administrative challenges**, particularly with billing and invoicing, have caused frustration for families. I extend my apologies once again for these difficulties. I have spoken with **Courtney (OSHC Manager)**, who assures me these issues are being **rectified**. If you experience any future billing issues, please email **5093-oshc@schools.vic.edu.au**
- A key finding of the review was that the **2024 user fee increase**, approved by the School Council for 2023, was not applied in the Kidsoft program and therefore not passed on to users. This oversight reduced the revenue available to cover program costs.

Acknowledgement of staff:

Our OSHC team — **Courtney, Caitlin, and Emma** — continue to provide a **safe, caring, and high-quality environment** for our students. Their dedication, consistency, and knowledge of each child are deeply valued by our community. This commitment and the quality of their care **came through loud and clear in recent community feedback**.

Looking ahead:

Thanks to the recent financial review and the commitment of our OSHC team, we are delighted that the **school-run program will remain in place for 2026**. Council will continue to work actively to ensure the program is sustainable, high-quality, and supportive for families, including **applying the approved fee increase to user fees** as outlined above.

It is important that families who have received letters regarding **outstanding user fees** begin making payments or arrange a payment plan, as continued debt impacts the **continuity of the program**.

Kinder on Site Update

This week, in discussions with the **Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA)**, it was acknowledged that project delays have **pushed the Kinder build back by one school term into 2026**. The building contract is expected to be officially awarded by the end of the week and will then go through the auditing phase. The VSBA anticipates the Kinder facility will be **completed and operational by mid-March 2026**.

In the meantime, I, along with representatives from the **VSBA, Department of Education, and Hume City Council**, am discussing a **contingency plan** for 2026 Kinder students to undertake their program **on the Gladstone Views Primary School site for the initial part of Term 1, 2026**. Further details regarding this arrangement will be provided once a Kinder provider is appointed and the contract is finalised.

2026 Classroom Placement – Family Input

As we begin **workforce planning for 2026**, we invite families to provide input regarding **classroom placement preferences**. While we do **not accept requests for specific teachers**, we do consider **academic or wellbeing needs** when making placement decisions.

Soon, your child will bring home a **form** giving families the opportunity to indicate **preferred classmates**—students that your child learns best with.

Please send any **additional requests or information** to:
gladstone.views.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

Important: No requests will be accepted **after Friday, 24 October 2025**.

We appreciate your support as we plan for a smooth and successful start to 2026.

Buildings and Grounds Updates

- **Kinder building** – VSBA confirmed delays; building is operationally expected by late March 2026. Contract awarded to the nominated builder.
- **Green Team** – Year 1/2 students participated enthusiastically in small-group, delegated tasks.
- **School Repairs (DET contract, VSBA priority 1 & 2)** – roof cladding, rising damp in gym, handrails, steps on portables, termites, electrical switchboard.

Water tank installation – \$1,422 approved for Jinavo Plumbing.

- **Gym hire** – ‘Little Kickers’ hire fee \$40/hour, plus bond.

Gladstone Views Primary School – School Council Update (September 2025)

Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

The School Council meeting opened with an Acknowledgement of Country and a warm welcome to all members and attendees.

Follow-Ups from Previous Meetings

- Letters to parents regarding fundraising requests were discussed.
- The Council reviewed the **Fundraising Policy**, noting that community members can nominate charities and the broader community can vote to select which charity the school will raise funds for.

Finance and Budget

- **July 2025 finance documents** were presented, with the School Services Branch (SSB) process running relatively smoothly.
- The **current OSHC budget** is approximately **half of last year's**, primarily due to outstanding payments from families and reduced Centrelink funding.
- The Council is actively working to **recover money from OSHC families** who have received invoices and debt letters.
- The following were approved: **\$136,556.95 in payments** were endorsed and **\$50,000 in transfers** were ratified. All reports were accepted as a **true and correct depiction of GVPS finances**.

Excursions and Incursions

- **Year 1/2 Scienceworks** – 4th December, \$30.00
- **Foundation Stay Late** – 7th November, \$10.00
- **Year 1/2 Stay Late** – 7th November, approx. \$20.00
- **Luna Park Year 6** – 1st December, \$47.00
- **Year 6 Graduation** – 10th December, \$45.00
- **Boxing Education: Gloves Up (Years 3-6)** – 8-11 September, no charge (physical and mental health and wellbeing)
- **Grassland Field Day (Sunbury)** – 31st July 2026, for 60 students

Education and Policy

- **Year 1 Phonics Check** – all completed.
- **Learning Catch-Up Funding** – funding ending; small-group instruction and intervention to continue with limited resources.
- **Tullamarine School Visit** – visiting staff gave complimentary feedback on our Literacy Block, especially our phonics program.
- **Parent/Caregiver Survey** – currently 8% completion; families encouraged to participate.
- **Proposed Foundation Transition Dates** and **2026 Curriculum Days** approved, including altered school days and report writing days.

Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) Update

- The 2023 School Council-approved **fee increase was not activated** in 2024 or 2025. Fees will now be updated to **\$18 Before School Care** and **\$23 After School Care**, effective **Term 4, 2025**, with communication to families underway.
- Improvements planned for **attendance, invoicing, staffing ratios, food handling, and stocktake**.
- **Community feedback** highlights that OSHC services are greatly appreciated.
- With the fee structure corrected and adjustments applied, it is now **feasible for the school-run program to continue operating in 2026**.

Child Safety & Community Feedback

- Council discussed parent presence in OSHC and emphasised ongoing child safety measures.
- Community feedback was highly positive regarding OSHC services, staff dedication, and support for student wellbeing.

Acknowledgement of Staff

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Looking Ahead

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GLOVES UP PILOT PROGRAM

School Manual & Procedures



This week, our Grade 3/4 students were lucky enough to be the first school in Australia to take part in Boxing Australia's *Gloves Up* Pilot Program, led by coaches Loz and Amanda.

Across four days, students learnt the foundations of boxing, including stance, footwork, and the four basic punches—jab, cross, hook, and uppercut. They practiced both individually and with partners, steadily building confidence and coordination.

The program also highlighted important personal and social capabilities. Students showed teamwork and collaboration during group activities, resilience when challenged by new skills, and a strong sense of respect and safety throughout. They quickly understood that boxing is about discipline, self-control, and looking after one another.

We hope to see this program added to the Sporting Schools menu in 2026, giving even more students the opportunity to experience the confidence, skills, and values that boxing can bring.



A Window into Our Classrooms

YEAR 3/4

It's been a wonderful two weeks of creativity and hands-on learning in Year 3/4!

Literature – Poetic Adventures

Our classrooms have been buzzing with rhythm and rhyme as students explore the world of poetry.

Together, we've been reading poems and looking closely at the connections they make, the author's purpose, and the power of Tier 2 words. Students have also been crafting their own poems and are now building their very own poetry collections. We can't wait to share our upcoming Year 3/4 Poetry Anthology—a true celebration of imagination and wordplay!

Mathematics – Measuring Mass

In maths, our focus has been on measurement, with a special spotlight on mass. Students have been busy estimating, comparing, and measuring the mass of everyday classroom objects. It's been fantastic to see them applying their mathematical thinking in such practical and engaging ways.

It's been another fortnight of fun, learning, and creativity—we're so proud of the effort and enthusiasm our Year 3/4 students bring every day!

YEAR 5/6

The last two weeks have been bursting with creativity, curiosity, and challenge in Year 5/6!

We were fortunate to be invited by our local community library to meet the incredible illustrator and animator Chris Kennett (best known for Crossbones, School of Monsters, Brunicorn and more!). Our students were absolutely captivated as Chris shared how he turns ideas into illustrations. The highlight was seeing students confidently ask thoughtful questions about his creative process—what an inspiring opportunity!

In maths, our learners have been tackling fractions head-on. After exploring equivalent fractions, we've now moved into the tricky world of adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators. It's been wonderful to see persistence and determination shine through as students challenge themselves with this complex concept.

Our inquiry learning is taking us on a global adventure with a strong geography focus. Students are busy researching countries in preparation for our upcoming Travel Expo. We can't wait to see the stalls they create to share their discoveries with our community!

It's been another fortnight full of rich learning and exciting opportunities. We look forward to what the next two weeks will bring.

SPECIALIST: VISUAL ARTS

This term, students have continued to explore the elements of Visual Arts across all year levels. In Foundation to Year 2, students thoroughly enjoyed learning about Indigenous art, particularly through engaging with Dreamtime stories and creating artworks inspired by them. In Years 3 and 4, students returned to Term 3 to celebrate NAIDOC Week by learning about the life and work of renowned Indigenous artist Albert Namatjira, with a focus on his distinctive landscape style. They also embraced the challenge of a paper mâché project, which, while not turning out exactly as envisioned, provided plenty of creativity, problem-solving, and fun. In Years 5 and 6, students investigated the question: Is graffiti a form of artistic expression or simply vandalism? They studied the work of influential street artist Banksy, compared his style to Pam the Bird, and then created their own inspired pieces.

SPECIAL EDITION

A Window into Our Classrooms



FOUNDATION

This term in Foundation, students have been exploring digraphs like /ck/ and /sh/ in Literacy, helping them build strong reading and spelling skills. In writing, we're learning to use adjectives to create more detailed and interesting sentences. In Maths, our focus has been on measurement, including mass, capacity, and length, using hands-on activities to compare and describe everyday objects. As part of our Inquiry unit, "My Special Place," students are creating dioramas to represent a place that's meaningful to them, combining creativity with personal reflection. We're also continuing to learn about making safe and respectful choices at school, while our Developmental Play Space supports creativity, social skills, and problem-solving through play.



YEAR 1/2

In Literacy, we have been exploring procedural texts, focusing on the key elements. These include the aim, materials/ingredients/equipment and the steps to follow. We have spoken about using procedure verbs such as cut, stir, pour, glue and make.

In Mathematics, we have been continuing to learn about multiplication and have begun to look at division. We have been learning to share items fairly between equal groups. In Inquiry, we have continued to explore the reasons people are connected to places in Australia and other countries across the world.

We have enjoyed our book week activities and our Fairy Tale Fiasco incursion. We had such a great time getting into different costumes and flipping the fairytales upside down. We dressed up as dragons, dwarves, wizards and mice. We had so much fun ridding the Fairy Tale world of pretend trolls and villains!



