

# NEWSLETTER

## UPCOMING DATES

- **Book Week**  
Scholastic Book Fair Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August to Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August
- **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August**  
Year 3/4 Mad about Science Incursion.
- **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August**  
Year 1/2 Fairytale Fiasco Incursion
- **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August**  
District Athletics
- **Monday 1st September**  
Father's Day Card Making
- **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September**  
Father's Day Stall
- **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September**  
Teddy Bear Picnic
- **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Sept – Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Sept**  
Year 5/6 Mt Evelyn Camp
- **Thursday 11Sept**  
RU OK DAY?
- **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September**  
Last day of Term 3

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 write to you, the weather is beginning to improve, and the smell of spring is in the air. The plovers have laid their eggs and are beginning to move on, so we are no longer being swooped on the school oval!

## **Book Week at GVPS – “Book an Adventure”**

This week we celebrated **Book Week** at GVPS, with the theme “*Book an Adventure.*”

The **Scholastic Book Fair** has been running all week, with many families browsing and purchasing new books to enjoy at home. Our **Year 5/6 students** had the opportunity to visit book illustrator **Chris Kennett** at the Gladstone Park Hume Library, while the **whole school** enjoyed a lively performance on Monday inspired by the theme of *Treasure Hunting*.

We concluded the week with the much-anticipated **Book Week Parade**. Students and families went to great effort to showcase their favourite books and characters, filling the gym with colour, excitement, and community spirit. It was also a wonderful sight to see our educational team welcoming families at the school gate in costume, before joining the fun in the parade.

A huge thank you to:

- **Our Educational Team** for their creativity and enthusiasm in dressing up.
- **Our families and community** joined in the celebrations and dressed up alongside the students.
- **Miss Monica Pisani and the team** for their hard work in making Book Week so special at GVPS.
- **Narelle** for overseeing the Book Fair.
- **Miss Meg** for being both our Master of Ceremonies and DJ during the parade.

Book Week 2025 has truly been a celebration of reading, imagination, and community at GVPS!

## Temporary Staffing Changes

As of Monday 25 August, while Miss Mim is taking some much-deserved long service leave, there will be a few staffing changes for the remainder of Term 3:

- Miss Michelle Rizk is Acting Principal.
- Mrs Madeleine Jordan, teacher from 1/2A, has been appointed Acting Learning Specialist and will take on a wider school role until the end of the term.
- Mrs Cathy Ciuffetelli will teach in 1/2A during this period, with Miss Jordan continuing to teach the class on Fridays.
- **Whilst Maria Varvakis is on leave, Miss Esra Uzunbay has joined our team and will be teaching in 1/2B.** We are very pleased to welcome Miss Uzunbay to GVPS and know she will make a wonderful contribution to the class. Thank you for supporting this transition and helping her feel part of our school community.

## Wellbeing at GVPS

As part of our wider Engagement and Wellbeing Program, our 5/6 students have been enjoying an active therapeutic modality that combines the principles of mental wellbeing and emotional literacy with traditional martial arts training. Mr Pat has been supporting students in this program, which has been very well received.

This initiative complements other wellbeing supports at GVPS. Our Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) groups have begun for the term, led by our dedicated SEL teacher, Miss Andrea Evans. These small-group sessions are designed to support students who need extra help in developing self-regulation skills, navigating social situations, and building confidence so they feel ready to learn. The groups provide a safe space for students to reflect, connect, and grow.

We are also delighted that our much-loved Paw Pals Canine Therapy Program has returned this term, bringing smiles, comfort, and calm to our students. The presence of our trained therapy dogs continues to make a positive impact on student wellbeing and emotional regulation.

And there's more to come! We're excited to soon launch new physical education meets wellbeing initiatives, blending movement, mindfulness, and teamwork to further support our students' mental and physical health.

## Athletics Day and District Athletics

In Week 2, our senior and junior students participated in our Whole School Athletics Day. It was a fantastic day full of energy, teamwork, and fun!

We would like to wish our top-performing students all the best as they represent GVPS at the upcoming District Athletics at Meadowglen Athletics Track, Epping, on Friday 29 August.

## 2025 Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey

We want to hear from you! Our school is taking part in the annual Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey offered by the Department of Education, and we are seeking your feedback. The survey helps us better understand families' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour, and student engagement.

The survey is optional, but we strongly encourage you to take part. It only takes about 20 minutes to complete online and will be open until Friday 19 September 2025.

Please access the survey via the COMPASS notification that has been sent to families.

Last year's survey results showed strong growth, with overall satisfaction increasing by 20%, student connection to school at 80% positive (+12%), and improvements in communication, school ethos, student engagement and development.

Your voice matters. Together, we can continue making GVPS the best possible environment for every student.

## Father's Day at GVPS

With Father's Day fast approaching, the GVPS School Council has organised some special events for our community:

### Father's Day Card-Making Evening

 Monday 1st September

 From 3:30pm

 School Art Room

### Father's Day Stall

 Thursday 4th September

Keep an eye on COMPASS and Class Dojo for further details. We look forward to celebrating together!

## Update on OSHC Program at Gladstone Views Primary School

I am writing to provide an update regarding the current status of the **Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) program** at Gladstone Views Primary School.

On **Wednesday 30 July**, the Principal, Assistant Principal, and Business Manager met with the Department of Education's Finance Division. A key focus of this meeting was the **financial sustainability** of the GVPS OSHC program. It was noted that the program has been operating at a financial loss over the past 2 years, with a significant amount of debt still to be recovered from outstanding user fees, currently close to \$50,000. **Families with outstanding fees have received a letter of notice.**

**Staffing costs for the program total approximately \$150,000 per year**, excluding further expenses such as food, program upgrades, resources, and the operation of the Holiday Program. These staffing requirements, along with other program costs, have contributed to the ongoing financial challenges.

In addition to financial concerns, the program has encountered a number of **administrative issues**, particularly related to billing and invoicing, which we understand have caused frustration for many families. We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Unfortunately, the **ongoing financial burden** of the OSHC program is impacting the school's overall budget, including future staffing and our ability to provide additional resources and support for all students.

The Department of Education has recommended exploring the option of **transitioning to a privately managed OSHC service**, on the condition that any new provider can continue to meet the needs of our school and families. Please be assured that this would only be considered as a **last resort**, and I want to emphasise that I do not wish to make this decision lightly, given the importance of the current service.

I would like to take a moment to sincerely acknowledge the dedicated work of our current OSHC team—Courtney, Caitlin, and Emma. They consistently provide your children with a safe, supportive, and enjoyable environment, and their care, continuity, and deep understanding of each child are truly invaluable to our school community.

The School Council has been involved in ongoing discussions regarding OSHC, working closely with Courtney, our OSHC Manager. We want to emphasise that we deeply value the role the current OSHC program plays in supporting families, and we are committed to working collaboratively to ensure it continues to offer a high-quality, sustainable service.

We fully recognise and appreciate the importance of what Courtney, Caitlin, and Emma provide to families and children every day, and we are grateful for their ongoing dedication and care.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.

Mr Alex on behalf of GVPS School Council



## Whole School Event – Friday 5th September

On Friday 5th September, our Student Voice Leader Team has organised a special whole school event for all students to enjoy!

Funds raised will go towards stocking our SWPBS Shop, ensuring students who are demonstrating positive behaviour and earning Dojo points can continue to access exciting rewards.

Keep an eye on COMPASS and Class Dojo for further details. We look forward to celebrating together!



# **August School Council Meeting Summary**

## **Gladstone Views Primary School Council Meeting – Summary**

### **1. Sub-Committees 2025**

- Sub-committees meet before full council to reflect on discussions; chairs report back.
- DET nominee or parent acts as convenor (sets agenda, arranges meeting).
- Combined committees approved; virtual meetings scheduled Tuesdays at 6pm prior to council meetings.

### **Finance & Fundraising Committee**

- Chair: Katie; Convenors: Sam & Alex; Members: Alex Mowat, M. Di Filippo, S. Hills, K. Lynch, J. Murphy, M. Lewis, S. Elston.
- Financial updates presented: June financial papers endorsed, school purchasing card approved, pie drive (\$1,438), Year 6 Beanies fundraiser (\$1,000 total; \$350 to fun day).
- Profit/loss for excursions (5/6 Interrelate, 1/2 Werribee Zoo) approved.
- Funding assistance for 5/6 camp discussed.
- SWPBS Footy Day fundraiser (19th Sept) and Student Voice initiatives approved.
- School Council motions passed to:
  - Endorse payments (\$68,306.78), transfers (\$30,000)
  - Approve Westpac credit cards for Principal, Assistant Principal, and Business Manager (\$1,000 limit)
  - Approve policies: School Purchasing Card
  - Approve fundraisers and camp/excursion profit & loss

## **Educational & Policy Committee**

- Convenor: Mim; Members: Alex Mowat, M. Di Filippo, S. Hills, K. Lynch, J. Murphy, M. Lewis, Ravi U, S. Elston
- Reviewed NAPLAN data: areas for growth in writing and spelling; next steps include targeted small group work, professional learning, and progress monitoring.
- Policies approved: School Purchasing Card, Asthma Policy, Digital Learning.
- Sunsmart School renewal noted (29 years of membership, new signage forthcoming).

## **Buildings & Grounds Committee**

- Chair: Alex/Mim; Convenor: Claire; Members: Alex Mowat, M. Di Filippo, S. Hills, K. Lynch, J. Murphy, M. Lewis, S. Elston, Claire Miano
- Onsite Kindergarten update: working with an Indigenous artist; interim enrolment process underway; tender delayed; recycled timber discussed for community garden.
- Green Team planting projects and murals ongoing.
- Boundary fencing completed; garden grants being explored.
- No motions requiring council decision.

## **Canteen & Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) Committee**

- Chair: Alex; Convenor: Michelle; Members: Alex Mowat, M. Di Filippo, S. Hills, K. Lynch, J. Murphy, M. Lewis, Claire, Nes, Shannon Elston
- OHSC financial review underway due to historical losses (-\$14,000 in 2024) and outstanding user payments (~\$50,000).
- Staffing costs ~\$150,000/year; Department advised current situation is unsustainable.



- OSHC: Term 2 holiday program was fully booked
- Council endorsed review of OSHC financial situation.

### Parents & Carers Update

- Next steps: developing a new shared purpose for the group.

### Reports

- Principal's report accepted and recommendations endorsed.

### Child Safe

- Links provided to Child Safe Policy and training presentation.

### Correspondence & General Business

- Father's Day events: Card Making – 1st Sept; Stall – 4th Sept (noted for planning).

### School Policies

- Feedback on school policies is welcomed from all community members.

Policies can be reviewed at: [GVPS Policies Page](#)

- Feedback can be sent to: [gladstone.views.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:gladstone.views.ps@education.vic.gov.au)Next

**Subcommittees: Tuesday 26th of August and School Council Wednesday 3rd September.**

# A Window into Our Classrooms

## YEAR 3/4

The last few weeks in 3/4 have been full of fun and learning! On Fridays we've been enjoying sport with our teachers and Mr Rex. We've played lots of different games and activities that keep us active, moving, and working as a team.

In Reading and Writing, we have been learning all about poetry. After finishing our explanation texts, we have loved exploring poems, playing with rhythm, rhyme, and creative language to share our ideas in new ways.

In Mathematics, we worked hard to finish our unit on fractions and are now practicing our multiplication quick facts. We've been building speed and confidence with times tables while also learning strategies to help us solve problems.

For Inquiry, we've been exploring the land and thinking about ways we can take care of it. We've also looked closely at the resources different countries use and compared how these can be the same or different. This has helped us understand how important it is to care for our world together.

We enjoyed some fantastic incursions that gave us new learning experiences right in our own classroom. Book Week was another highlight - everyone looked amazing in their dress ups, and we had so much fun taking part in the different activities and celebrating our love of reading together.

## YEAR 5/6

It's been another fantastic fortnight of learning in Year 5/6, with students diving deep into new areas of Writing, Inquiry, and Maths.

Students have begun crafting their own memoirs, reflecting on the important events that have shaped their lives. They are exploring how to use rich, descriptive language to bring their stories to life and learning to write in their own unique voice.

It's been wonderful to see their confidence grow as authors who can share meaningful, personal stories.

Our Inquiry unit has taken us around the globe! Students are busy researching different countries as we prepare for our exciting Travel Expo. They are discovering fascinating facts about geography, culture, and landmarks, and can't wait to showcase their learning to you soon.

In Maths, students are tackling the world of fractions. They've been practising adding and subtracting fractions, exploring equivalent fractions, and building their knowledge of improper fractions and mixed numbers. Even the challenge of working with uncommon denominators has been met with enthusiasm and persistence.

It's been a busy and rewarding fortnight, and we can't wait to see what our students achieve next!

## SPECIALIST: PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### Foundation:

Our youngest superstars have been busy weaving, dodging, and changing directions safely through fun games to start the term. More recently, they've jumped into soccer, keeping their eyes on the ball and kicking forward with growing confidence. Next up - AFL! We'll be learning the art of kicking the footy with the correct technique.

### Years 1/2:

Students have been leaping, dodging, and moving like champions before shifting into soccer mode. They've been practising how to stop and kick using the inside of their foot with great progress. Coming up, the focus turns to AFL, where they'll tackle the drop punt and learn how to kick with accuracy.

### Years 3/4:

These students teed off the term with golf, developing grip, swing, and consistency in hitting the ball. From there, they've transitioned into soccer, where dribbling, passing, and goal scoring have been the highlights. Next on the agenda is AFL, with a focus on handballing, kicking, and testing their skills in game simulations.

### Years 5/6:

Our senior students also began the term on the golf course (well, the oval version at least!), sharpening their grip and technique to strike the ball consistently. Since then, they've been working hard on their soccer skills - dribbling, passing, scoring goals, and putting their techniques into action in game situations. Next up, it's time for some AFL fun, as they work on handballing, kicking, and game play strategies.

# A Window into Our Classrooms



## FOUNDATION

This week in Foundation, we've been building our literacy skills by exploring CCVCC words, using them in sentences, and making connections with texts to support reading for meaning. In Maths, we've started our measurement unit, focusing on length and height, while continuing to practise number bonds to 10 and hands-on strategies for addition and subtraction. In Inquiry, we've begun designing our own special places and choosing materials to build dioramas with our Grade 5 buddies. We've also been learning how to stay safe at school by making good choices and caring for others. A highlight this term was our fun and engaging Book Week celebrations! Through our Developmental Play Space, we continue to grow our creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving skills.



## YEAR 1/2

In Literacy, we have been writing fantastic narratives, focusing on the key elements of a story and exploring how to make our writing engaging and exciting for the reader.

In Mathematics, we have been diving into multiplication, using hands-on materials to practise making equal groups and creating arrays to represent multiplication problems. In Inquiry, we have been examining how technology has improved people's access to different places, as well as considering how where you live can affect the things you do.

We also enjoyed taking part in an incursion run by Yarra Valley Water, where we learned about the importance of conserving water. Looking ahead, we are very excited for our upcoming Fairy Tale Fiasco incursion next week—we love any opportunity to perform!



## Kindergarten at Gladstone Views Primary School – Project Update (Opening 2026)

I would like to provide an update on the new **on-site kindergarten at Gladstone Views Primary School**, which is set to open in **2026**.

The **Department of Education** is currently in the design and tender phase of the project, working to appoint the team who will oversee the delivery of the build. The kindergarten facility will be constructed off-site and then transported to GVPS, where on-site preparation and installation will take place.

From recent conversations with the Central Team, construction is anticipated to begin during the **end-of-year school holidays** and continue into **Term 1, 2026**. A contingency plan is also being considered to ensure that children enrolled in the 2026 kindergarten program will be able to attend kinder on the school site during the early part of 2026 while construction is underway.

I understand there have been concerns regarding enrolments for 2026 and the allocation of days of attendance. I have been working closely with the team to communicate these concerns, and I will provide a further update in the next edition of the newsletter.

## School Assembly Dates - Term 3



**WEEK 7 - Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September**

**WEEK 9- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September**





# BOOK WEEK @ GVPs





