



**YARRALUMLA PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
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## NEWSLETTER NO. 5 9 April 2020

### DATES TO REMEMBER

|                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Thursday 9 April        | Last Day of Term 1  |
| Monday 27 April         | Public Holiday      |
| <b>Tuesday 28 April</b> | First Day of Term 2 |

### Our Vision

*Insieme, creiamo, studenti per tutta la vita.  
Together we create lifelong learners.*

Dear families

As we move into the first break of the year – 18 days of holiday bookended by Good Friday and ANZAC Day – I reflect on the term, my first at YPS. Who could ever have predicted the events we have traversed together!

I have found myself amongst a community of caring, energetic children, teachers and parents who have made the rough waters through which we have sailed seem so much calmer than the reality. From Day 1, I noticed the confidence of our learners and their strong connection to the school, their teachers and classmates. They have been a joy to get to know.

Together we managed the air quality challenges of the first few weeks, immediately followed by weeks of fresh turbulence caused by unpredictable worldwide events. And here we are at the end of term in a space like no other we have known before.

All our students' learning will be online for term 2. This includes regular online meets with their teacher and classmates, lessons and other school activities. We are thinking through how to present assemblies and Monday COLA in the online format, and how our student leaders can enact their important roles in our dispersed community. More on those things next term. Your feedback has been so important in ensuring that what we design matches not only the regular learning program, but works for you at home as well. More webinars for families are planned for next term, including for Montessori and preschool.

We know these holidays will be different for you, our valued families. Slow life down if you can and embrace simple pleasures – a jigsaw puzzle, a walk in the autumn leaves, handball in the backyard, get crafty. Take time to connect with your children and loved ones. For those in our community who deliver essential services, our thoughts and gratitude are with you, for your lives surely will not slow down.

In closing I would like to reassure you that in every possible scenario moving forward, I and the Leadership Team (Deb, Stacey, Claire and Lynden) and our fabulous Front Office team led by Sam, will be available to you in the same way we have always been. Do stay in touch and let us share the new challenges you face supporting home learning.

I look forward to reconnecting on 28 April.

Happy Easter  
Jennie

**\*LATE NEWS – please check your in box for an important email outlining term 2 arrangements.**

| <b>SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR</b>   | <b>P&amp;C</b>  | <b>PRINCIPAL</b>   |
|---|---|--|
| Rachel Smith-Cianchi ( <i>Board Chair</i> )<br>Phone: 0412 598 138<br>Email: <a href="mailto:cianchi47@gmail.com">cianchi47@gmail.com</a> | Philip Hartley ( <i>President</i> )<br>Phone: 0412 010 677<br>Email: <a href="mailto:president@ypspandc.com">president@ypspandc.com</a> | Jennie Lindsay ( <i>Principal</i> )<br>Phone: 6142 3250<br>Email: <a href="mailto:Jennie.Lindsay@ed.act.edu.au">Jennie.Lindsay@ed.act.edu.au</a> |

## Around the School

### Google Classroom

Dear Families,

During week 10, K-6 students trialled Google Classroom as their online learning platform. We believe this has been a successful trial and appreciate the feedback we have received from families. If you were unable to attend the K-2 or 3-6 Webinar, you will be able to watch the recording which has been sent to you via email. Below is feedback we have received so far and our response:

- The weekly grid sent in weeks 8 and 9 was useful as a checklist for work required.
  - In term 2, teachers will send home a 'weekly learning checklist' which will advise parents of work posted to their child's Google Classroom. On this checklist you will also have the scheduled Google Meets for the week.
- Some work required printing and printers were not always available at home.
  - Teachers will plan to limit print outs. When available, staff will embed the necessary 'worksheet' into a google slide to be uploaded digitally. Students can then complete the work online.
- How much work and support do I give to my child?
  - For younger students, we recommend short intervals of learning with plenty of movement and brain breaks. As a rule of thumb, the age of your child is generally how long they can concentrate for, e.g. 7- years old equates to 7 minutes of concentration. When supporting your child to complete a task, prompt them with questions about what they might already know about a topic and help them to understand each step of the task. We discourage the use of red pens for marking as when the work is submitted the teacher will provide appropriate feedback. Remember we love to see the students work, no matter how much they have accomplished.
- Increase in Italian Google Meetings and the ability to listen to the Italian language (formal and conversational) for students in Years 3-6.
  - We will continue to look at ways we can increase the delivery of Italian lessons at home. We are currently using ScreenCastify for our explicit lessons to give students the opportunity to listen to the teachers. All Italian teachers will also continue to hold Google Meetings with the classes to converse in Italian.

We would like to remind you that teachers will be hosting Google Meets with their students on a regular basis. Teachers will be online for assigned times each week. Some students are entering before or staying on after the Google meet to socialise with their peers. We ask that you please supervise this time with your child as teachers will only be online and available for the assigned meeting times.

If you have a question, please direct these to the classroom teachers via email. We need to keep the Google Classrooms for questions directly related to learning so that we can maintain the classroom 'environment' as much as possible. We also request that students post in the classrooms rather than parents, where possible. Teachers will remove any posts not relevant to the classroom and learning.

We hope you have a restful holiday and we will see you all virtually in Term 2.

Claire Sturgess and Stacey Meyer

## Communication with the school

To ensure continuity of communication in regards to absences etc please send all emails to the [info@yarralumlaps.act.edu.au](mailto:info@yarralumlaps.act.edu.au) address. If you send emails directly to individual front office staff this information may not be sent on in a timely fashion.

You can continue to send class related emails to your child's class teacher/s. However, please be mindful that they may be receiving a large amount of emails resulting in a slower than normal response time. Thanks for your understanding.

**If the matter is urgent or relates to the safety of a student, please ring the Education Directorate's **Parents and Carers Hotline** on 6205 5429. Thank you.**

## Some FAQs from the Education Directorate

### **Is there a proforma for parent permission for students using Google Hangout for live chats?**

It is important to ensure that all parents and carers of students who are participating in online activities are adequately informed about the use of the online platforms. Included in the termly agreements will be a section for parents to agree about acceptable use of the technology including Google Meets/Hangouts.

Students who do not have parental consent for the Google Suite for Education are aware of the limitations this will present for online home learning. Where parents choose not to provide consent, schools will ensure these students are able to continue their learning through other offline material and maintain communication through other channels.

An updated version of the annual 'Acceptable Use of ICT' guidelines will be distributed to parents and students at the beginning of Term 2. These will be distributed electronically for signing to support safe engagement with the new Home Online Learning approach.

### **Will there be an ongoing process for managing technical and fault issues with student's Chromebooks?**

Yes, we are finalising a service support model which will include support for Chromebook issues. A centrally managed support process will be for school staff, students and parents/caregivers to seek technical support when experiencing difficulties with their Directorate allocated devices. Watch this space.

### **Are there guidelines for parents on how to use Google Meet to support their child or young person?**

Keeping our community informed and assisting parents to help their children during home learning is imperative to the success of our students. The Directorate acknowledges this and is working hard to develop a 'Families Guide' page for inclusion on the [Home Learning website](#).

Further information will be provided to families as it becomes available.

## Sports News

It is important to keep moving and get outside at least once a day to get some fresh air and vitamin D.

If you can't get outside because of poor weather, have a look online for a dance video or movement break video that you can get moving with. There are lots of different types of videos you can move to.

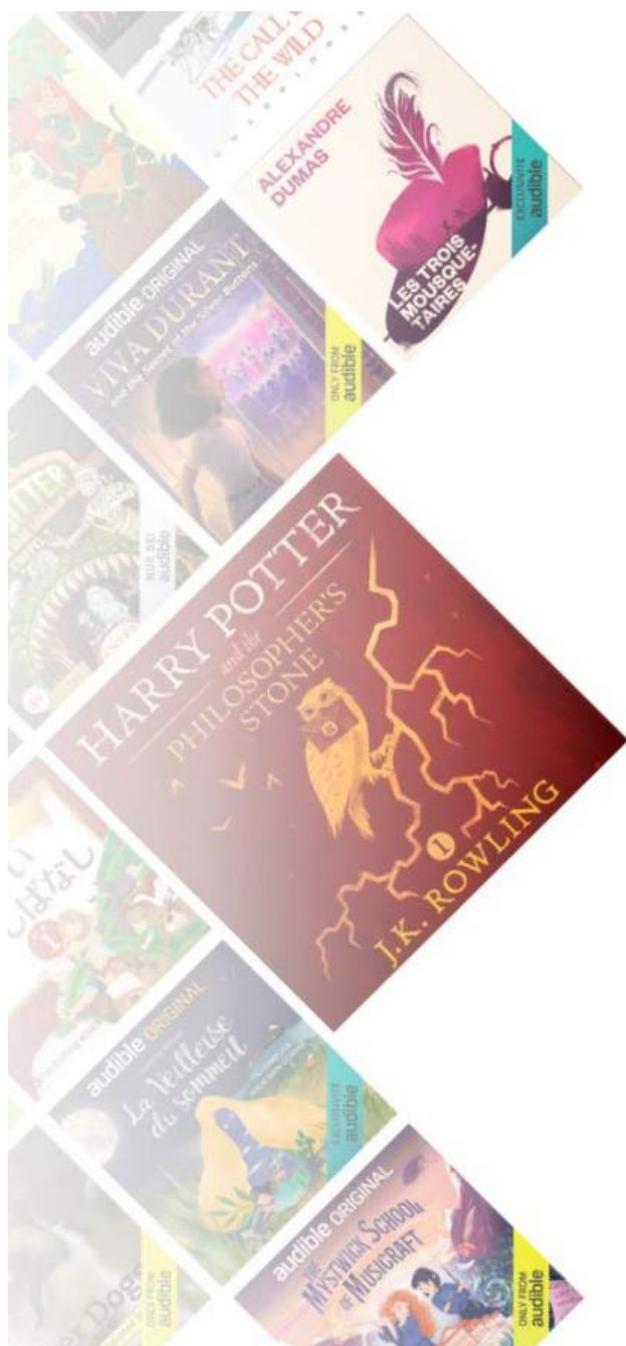
Don't forget exercise is important for learning. It helps clear your mind and be able to come back to your work and concentrate.

Set a social distancing fitness goal for yourself. Some examples are; increasing the amount of burpees you can do, running around the block or house quicker or more times in a row, bouncing a ball without stopping, skipping without stopping, race the dog to the back of the yard, do a hand stand for as long as you can, the list goes on.

## Community News

### Free audio books on Audible

<https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>



## Stories help.

**They entertain. They teach. They keep young minds active, alert, and engaged.**

For as long as schools are closed, we're open. Starting today, kids everywhere can instantly stream an incredible collection of stories, including titles across six different languages, that will help them continue dreaming, learning, and just being kids.

All stories are free to stream on your desktop, laptop, phone or tablet.

Explore the collection, select a title and start listening.

It's that easy.

[Start Listening](#)

[Learn How to Use Stories.](#)

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# Free eBooks from Griffith University



## Griffith Uni offers parents FREE acclaimed e-reader books for home schooling



To the school Principal,

Griffith University, P&Cs QLD and Rotary District 9640 recognise the increased anxieties placed on parents due to home-schooling demands as a result of the COVID 19 health crisis.

To assist parents, we are offering, **FREE OF CHARGE** to parents across Queensland and Australia, our highly successful **learn-to-read book series**, *Suzie the Scientist* and *Millie the Mathematician*.

As Australians move to online learning modes, we are helping parents of pre-K to Year 3 students by:

1. removing the costs to purchase our interactive e-books on the Apple i-bookstore. This applies to 48 titles across both the Suzie the Scientist and Millie the Mathematician learn-to-read book series (i.e. 24 titles in each)
2. providing free access to the on-line, interactive versions of all 48 titles
3. providing free access to the video book version of all 48 titles

*N.B. previously, these online resources were only available to schools; we have now opened them up to everyone.*

**Link to the press release can be found here:**

<https://news.griffith.edu.au/2020/04/02/griffith-offers-free-acclaimed-reader-books-for-homeschool-carers/>

**Links to download all three digital versions of the books can be found here:**

<https://www.griffith.edu.au/community/stem-early-reader-home-resources>

I would be obliged if you could pass this information onto your parents of your K-2 students.

Best regards



Anita Hazell on behalf of Professor Richard John

Griffith University

<https://www.milliemathematician.com.au/>

<https://www.suziethescientist.com.au/>



## Italian Tutor

**Italian Language Tutor**

My name is Elisa Scorsini, I am Italian , studying here at the ANU and looking for part-time tutoring work. I am studying Archaeology at the ANU and arrived in Canberra in February. I would be happy to tutor conversational, written and grammatical Italian with students of all age groups via online platforms.

I have previous experience on teaching people of all ages as I was a tour guide in an archaeological site in Naples, Italy.

If you are interested you can contact me on:  
0492490126, or [elisascorsini@gmail.com](mailto:elisascorsini@gmail.com)

## Slowing the Spread of COVID-19

As of 11am Friday, 3 April 2020, new restrictions are in place to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in the Territory. These stronger measures have been agreed upon by National Cabinet to help flatten the curve, so our healthcare system won't become overwhelmed.



To help slow the spread, Canberrans are to only leave their homes for the following reasons:

- shopping for what you need - food and necessary supplies
- medical or health care needs, including compassionate requirements
- exercise in compliance with the public gathering requirements
- work and study if you can't work or learn remotely

Further limits are also in place on public gatherings to just two people. Playgrounds, skateparks, dog parks, outdoor fitness stations, outdoor BBQs, and campground across the Territory will be also be closed, as well as Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and Namadgi National Park.

For more information on social distancing and COVID-19 updates, visit <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/>

## Maintaining Good Mental Health

Everyone's lives, both personal and professional, have been affected in some ways over the past few days and weeks.

During this time, it's important to do things that help us to cope and maintain good mental health.



This weekend, try and take care of your mental health by:

1. staying connected with your loved ones via phone chat, email or video call
2. limiting your exposure to media coverage
3. maintaining physical activity
4. keeping regular sleep routines and eating healthy foods
5. accessing support if you're feeling overwhelmed.

If you or a member of your immediate family are struggling to cope, you can seek support from the [Employee Assistance Program](#).

If you want to seek help from another support service, you can find a list of contacts to call, text or webchat to at [COVID-19 website](#).

## Easter Long Weekend



The Easter break will look very different this year.

Now is not the time to become complacent. It's important that all Canberrans stay home this long weekend.

For more information and to stay up to date, visit the [COVID-19 website](#).