



YARRALUMLA PRIMARY SCHOOL
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21 May 2020 NEWSLETTER NO. 7

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 25 May	Yr 3 & 4 return to face to face learning
Tuesday 2 June	Yr 5 & 6 return to face to face learning
Monday 1 June	Reconciliation Day Public Holiday
Tuesday 2 June	Yr 5 & 6 return to face to face learning
Monday 8 June	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
Friday 3 July	End of Term 2
Monday 20 July	Start of Term 3

Our Vision

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

Dear families,

On behalf of the whole staff, I want to express how joyous an experience it was to welcome the first cohort of students back to school on Monday. We dressed in sparkles to show our excitement! By 9.15, students had reconnected with friends and were settled in their classrooms, including the group of Yrs 3 – 6 continuing online learning students who had been attending Safe and Supervised Sites. At the end of the first day, staff reflected on how fresh and engaged the students were. We agreed it was a lovely day for everyone! We are full of admiration for parents who, through difficult times, have kept children safe and participating in learning to the degree you were able in your own family context. We hope it hasn't been too much of a wrench to deliver them back into our care.

The system-wide, phased return to school means that some students are learning at school while others are awaiting their return date. I understand this may feel inequitable and many are anxious to return. I respectfully ask that wherever possible, families adhere to the scheduled return date. Online learning will continue right up until on-campus learning resumes for each year level. If your family circumstances have changed and you can no longer supervise your child's learning, please call the school to discuss options.

Thank you to everyone who has been on school grounds this week for modelling great social distancing and hand hygiene. Thanks also for not entering school grounds or classrooms or lingering too long if you do. It feels strange and even unfriendly, but these are the rules right now.

We are pleased to welcome the following students to our community:

- Julius and Israel (Yr 1, Yr 3))
- Sophie and Ella (Yr 1, Yr 3)
- Elsa (K)
- Marley (K)
- Jake and Raul (Yr 3, Yr 5)

Ciao for now

Jennie



Festa della Repubblica Italiana – Italian National Day

Dear Parents and Readers

This week I have been corresponding with Anna Rita Tamponi, the Director of Educational and Cultural Office at the Embassy of Italy, regarding Yarralumla's annual celebration of Italy's Festa della Repubblica. Traditionally, at Yarralumla we have an assembly in the hall on the morning of 2 June and the Ambassador, or another dignitary from the Embassy of Italy, addresses the children and school community. They share the history and significance of this important national day of celebration.

Unfortunately, the impact of Covid-19 has had a dreadful toll on the citizens of Italy, with an enormous number of deaths. Consequently, the Italian Government has decided to cancel all celebrations this year.

However, the Ambassador, Ms Francesca Tardioli, has graciously offered to write an official message to the children at Yarralumla, which we will read and translate for the children on 2 June. The Ambassador has congratulated us on the initiative to commemorate this important day.

This day of commemoration coincides with all students returning to school on 2 June. Our request is for all children to be in their green, white and red school uniform. Staff will also dress in Italy's national colours. At the moment, we are brainstorming ways of demonstrating our support for the citizens of Italy along the lines of the English clapping in support of their frontline workers. This demonstration of support is to be decided.

Yarralumla Primary School sends sincere condolences to our Italian families and community for the loss of loved ones and those who are still suffering as a direct result of the COVID-19 virus.

Maestra Lynden and the Yarralumla School Community



My name is Rosalie, and I'm the school psychologist at Yarralumla Primary School. My job is to support the school in giving our students the best possible outcomes for learning and wellbeing. I do this through work with individual students – completing activities which can tell us about our strengths and areas of difficulty. It is part of my job to make sure that students are able to receive supports (where needed) in their classrooms.

I also work together with families and students to find ways to improve health and wellbeing. If you are interested in speaking with me, please talk to your class teacher. That way, we can decide on the most helpful way forward.

Some things about me:

What do I enjoy about being a school psychologist:

I have worked across many settings during the past 6 years in my field. I really enjoy the sense of community and connectedness that comes with working in a school. I love seeing our teachers do their work, as it is clear to me that they have such a determined desire for their students to succeed. I enjoy hearing the laughter coming from the playground during breaks (I'm certainly looking forward to this when the students are back on the grounds).

What have I noticed that is unique to working at Yarralumla Primary School:

Most school psychologists work across more than one school. I have noticed that Yarralumla Primary School has the best view of the Black Mountain (Telstra) Tower (which I can see from my office). We have a beautiful, rich environment, which is highlighted when the leaves turn amber and brown during Autumn. We have passionate staff, and wellbeing is at the forefront of the work that we do at the school.

How do I know when my work is successful:

As a school psychologist, I wear many 'hats'. Sometimes I'm supporting students one on one, sometimes I'm supporting parents and families, sometimes I am supporting staff and classrooms, and other times I'm making sure that my notes and disability applications are correct, up to date, and in line with the ethics of my profession. A successful day for me is when I can make time for the people that I'm working with. I feel best when I have gone beyond simply 'finding out'. With the many families that I work with, and the different parts of my role, it can be a bit of a juggle.

All in all, I feel very excited to be a part of the Yarralumla community.

At this time, we can all play a role in supporting those around us. Making sure that we take the time to check in with others, really hear what they have to say, and finding out what they might need. It will take a community effort to mend from our recent challenges, and I look forward to being a part of this.

Enrolments 2021

Enrolments for next year have commenced. Families who have a child to be enrolled in preschool, transitioning to another ACT Public School, or a Year 6 student moving on to an ACT Public High School are encouraged to apply before 5 June 2020 in order to receive an offer of a place from 27 July 2020. Apply online at www.education.act.gov.au



Enrolling in Preschool in 2021

If your child turns four on or before 30 April 2020, they were able to start preschool in Term 1, 2020. **If your child turns four after 30 April 2020, they can start preschool in 2021**

All four year old ACT children are guaranteed a place in a public preschool. However, you are not guaranteed a place at the preschool site of your preference, due to capacity constraints at some sites. All preschools offer a high-quality early childhood education.

Enrolments for 2021 open from 6am on Tuesday 28 April. Apply before 5 June 2020 to receive an offer from 27 July 2020. Apply online at education.act.gov.au



Education



2021 school enrolments now open

- 1. Go to education.act.gov.au** for information on your local school and to enrol online.
- 2. Apply before 5 June 2020** to receive an offer from 27 July 2020. This means there is ample time to submit your application to be included in the initial round of offers.



Education



My name is Vincenzo Fotia and I have been given the great honour of being elected as Yarralumla Primary Schools P&C president.

Firstly, can I start off by saying welcome back and oh my what a year it has been so far!!!

Secondly, I would like to say a HUGE thank you and congratulations to Principal Jennie Lindsay and her staff for the fantastic work that they have done to keep our kids school running during all these massive changes.

I would also like to publicly thank Phil Hartley and his team for the amazing job they have done so far and that the new P&C team made up of Kelly Austin (Secretary), Kirk Batty (Treasurer) and myself hope that we can further their great work.

I am pleased to say that someone has nominated for the role of P&C vice-president and their nomination will be made available once we work out the finer details for the next P&C meeting.

Currently, Principal Jennie Lindsay and I are in discussions of where, when and how the next P&C meeting could be held while complying Covid-19 regulations e.g. number of people in a room, social distancing, timelines etc. Any suggestions of how to resolve these questions would be greatly appreciated.

Currently our thinking is that any P&C concerns are be sent to me and I will discuss with the school and report back.

While the school was closed because of Covid-19 I have spent time working behind the scene's endeavouring to fix what I thought might be issue's when school returned.

Namely, I have been in communication with the Yarralumla Residents Association's and several other key road and infrastructure figures regarding improvement to and or creation of new school pick up and drop off zones.

So far, I am pleased to say that everyone is keen to create a better design than we currently have, such as widening of the entry and exit points and paving the dirt carpark surface off Mueller St.

This particular thing may be a little way off which we could trial soon, if agreed. We have also received some other simple and easily implemented ideas.

There were some other matters that were discussed during the last P&C meeting in December 2019 regarding school uniforms, class splitting, fundraising etc. that are still on our agenda for further action. As soon as school settles back into a routine, we will plan a P&C meeting, respectfully before the end of this term. In the meantime, I will do my best to keep everyone connected and updated wherever possible.

Kindest regards,
Vincenzo Fotia

Library information

Accessing our School Library and Home Readers

Due to social distancing requirements, the library will remain closed to families before and after school until further notice. Students will be able to borrow books to take home during their class sessions from next week. Teachers will continue to support students to borrow books to bring home and will continue to have mini libraries for students to read in class. Students may also continue to borrow home readers, and these can be swapped at the front office.

All library books and home readers need to be returned to the box located new the front office. These books will be quarantined for 24 hours before being cleaned and ready for borrowing again. We currently have over 1000 overdue books so now is a great time to have a hunt at home and bring in your library books to swap when your child returns to school.

Our online library collection is still available for all families to access at any time from home using a device. There are thousands of eBooks, audiobooks and magazines to browse through. To access the online library using the SORA application or website, follow these steps:

Getting started with Sora

With Sora, you can borrow free e-books and audiobooks from the central **ACT Education Directorate** collection. More than 7,000 e-book titles and 1,000 audiobooks available for recreational reading. Borrow up to 10 resources at a time! Loan period is four weeks with an early-return option for those quick, enthusiastic readers. Need a bit more time, then use the renewal option if no one has placed a HOLD (reserve).

Step 1

Go online to soraapp.com. or install the free Sora app from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#)

Step 2

In Sora, in **Find My School** enter the set-up code **ACT Education Directorate (NOT the individual school name)**, then, sign in using your school, individual login credentials, ie. student ID number (just the number not full email address) and password for students and staff account (firstname_surname) and password for teachers.

Step 3



Browse the Explore tab and borrow an e-book or audiobook. Your book will open so you can start reading or listening right away.

Step 4



Close the book and go to Shelf & see all your books (up to 10!). From there you can:

- Select **Open book** or **Open audiobook** to read or listen to the book.
- Select **Options** to renew or return the book.

National Reconciliation Week 27 May – 3 June

This year's theme - In This Together

In 2020 Reconciliation Australia marks twenty years of shaping Australia's journey towards a more just, equitable and reconciled nation.

Much has happened since the early days of the people's movement for reconciliation, including greater acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights to land and sea; understanding of the impact of government policies and frontier conflicts; and an embracing of stories of Indigenous success and contribution.

2020 also marks the twentieth anniversary of the reconciliation walks of 2000, when people came together to walk on bridges and roads across the nation and show their support for a more reconciled Australia.

As always, we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, and Australians now benefit from the efforts and contributions of people committed to reconciliation in the past.

On this journey, Australians are all **In This Together**; every one of us has a role to play when it comes to reconciliation, and in playing our part we collectively build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories and cultures.

What is National Reconciliation Week?

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

The dates for NRW remain the same each year; 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey— the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively.

Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



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 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 and this may result 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.**

KINDY HEALTH CHECKS CANCELLED

Due to the redeployment of Registered Nurses during the COVID-19 pandemic response and the closure of schools, the 2020 physical component of the Kindergarten Health Check has been cancelled. The Academic Unit of General Practice questionnaire data, completed by parents at the beginning of the 2020 school year, has been collected as usual. The results of the questionnaire will be sent to the GP if consent has been given to do so. If parents have concerns regarding the physical check we recommend they see their GP for assessment. For more information please contact the School Health Team on 51241585.

Community News

NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME 2020



Join us for National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) on Wednesday 27 May 2020. Every year this activity is organised to promote reading and literacy. A book that is written by an Australian author is chosen to be read simultaneously in schools and libraries in Australia.

This year the book is 'Whitney and Britney Chicken Divas' by Lucinda Gifford.

You can register your family for free on the ALIA website <http://alia.org.au/nss>



Yarralumla Primary Canteen

Healthy Kids Association is pleased to be reopening the school canteen on Friday 5th June.

The canteen service will still operate Fridays with online ordering for lunch only.

We will still be offering a full menu for lunch and encourage you to please continue using the canteen service for hot meals, cold meals, drinks and snacks.

Please log onto www.flexischools.com.au and set up your account ready to start ordering.

THANK YOU

COVID-19 TRANSLATED RESOURCES



It's important for everyone to be able to understand the most up to date information and advice relating to COVID-19.

If you have a friend, family, neighbour or someone you know that doesn't speak English as their first language, let them know there are translated resources available on COVID-19 at <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/translated>

If they require translating or interpreting services, they can call the national Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450

New Book Readings from Penguin Publishing

Dear readers,

Our focus this week is on books for young children.

As I write this, two of our lovely picture books have been shortlisted for the 2020 Australian Book Industry Awards (ABIAs): *The Tiny Star* by Mem Fox and Freya Blackwood, and *Bluey: The Beach*. Both are must-haves for little ones.

I was reflecting on the success of Bluey the other day. If you haven't seen an episode on ABC iView, I would encourage you to watch one, they are only short but they are brilliant, not least because they so candidly reflect Australian life, albeit if we were all different dog breeds.

Two of our newest releases, *Bluey: Bob Bilby* and *Bluey: The Creek* have managed to be even more relevant in this COVID-affected world. The former effortlessly tackles the problem of too much screen time, and the latter explores the local creek when the kids tire of the playground, with a lovely theme of rediscovering the natural world. Both situations are no doubt familiar to many families right now.

Do enjoy the videos, activity packs, teachers' notes and more below. As well as picture books, we have included some chapter books for newly independent readers. Next week our focus will be on books for older children.

Happy reading!

Dot Tonkin
Marketing & Publicity Director, Young Readers, Penguin Publishing

PS – Please do tune into the ABIAs, which for the first time will be live on YouTube, 4pm Wednesday 13 May. See here for details: <https://abiawards.com.au/>

Link for *The Tiny Star* - <https://www.penguin.com.au/books/the-tiny-star-9780670078127?>

Link for *Bluey: The Beach* - <https://www.penguin.com.au/books/bluey-the-beach-9781760894054?>

