



YARRALUMLA PRIMARY SCHOOL
24 Loftus Street, Yarralumla ACT 2600
Phone: 6142 3250
Email: info@yarralumlaps.act.edu.au
Website: www.yarralumlaps.act.edu.au



21 March 2024 NEWSLETTER NO. 4

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday 13 March to Friday 22 March	NAPLAN
Friday 22 March	SRC Fundraiser – Australia for UNHRC
Monday 25 March	School Photos
Tuesday 26 March	Learning Journey 8:30am-10am
Friday 29 March	Good Friday
Monday 1 April	Easter Monday

Our Vision

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Learning Journey

The students are very excited about sharing their term 1 learning with their loved ones on Tuesday 26 March from 8:30-10:00am. The Learning Journey is an opportunity for students to share their work in all subject areas, the classrooms and specialist subject areas with their parents/grandparents/loved ones. We look forward to seeing our families on the day.

School Photos

Our school photos will be held on Monday 25 March in the school hall. Please ensure your child is wearing their summer school uniform. Sibling photos will be taken during our break times. If you are having a sibling photo, please remind your children. Just a reminder that photos will be taken with jumpers off.

Swimming Carnival

Our swimming carnival was held last Tuesday for our Year 2-6 students. Congratulations to all students for participating in the events on the day. For many of our students it was their first time competing in a 50m race and the staff were so proud of the students' determination to complete the distance. We will be announcing the winners at the upcoming assembly. Thank you to all the parent volunteers on the day who helped at the pool and at school with the Kindergarten and Year 1 water fun day. The support from the parents and the students from St Edmunds College ensured that we were able to run a successful carnival for the students.

Drop off and Pick up Zone

A reminder to all families that the front dress circle is a drop off and pick up zone for our parents. If you intend to come onto school grounds, please ensure you use one of the carparks available or park on the surrounding streets. We would love to keep the pick up and drop off zone available for those families who are wanting to keep moving in the morning and afternoons. Please continue to show patience towards other drivers within this area of the school.

Seesaw

Last week YPS posted 70 new items on the Seesaw app and we had 106 family visits. SeeSaw is an app to assist YPS share student learning with our families. Please make sure you hop onto the app to see what has been happening in your child's class.

School Board and P&C

Thank you to all the parents who nominated for positions on the school board and the P&C. We look forward to announcing all the positions in the coming newsletters. Families will receive information regarding voting for the school board as we have three nominations.

Keep Smiling,

Rohan Evans

School Board

2024 Yarralumla Primary School Board Election - Parents Member Candidate Statements

This document contains statements from candidates letting voters know about their interest and suitability for the vacant positions.

Vacancies

In 2024 there is one vacant parent member position.

When and where to vote

To vote in the election please login to the online voting system between 11am, Tuesday 19 March and 11am on Tuesday 26 March 2024.

The voting system can be accessed from here:

https://actededucation.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bQHSXa5clt4naoS

Your login details are our school code YARP and the email address that you received the notification email to.

Questions

If you have any questions about the elections, then please contact the Assistant Returning Officer Tatiana Richards Tatiana.richards@ed.act.edu.au.

Candidates

Cameron Dyson-Smith

Candidate for Parent Member

Dear YPS community, by way of introduction, I am a parent of two current students at Yarralumla Primary School and a lifelong member of this community. This includes my own education at this very school. I am committed to supporting this community and our children through the advancement of our school. With over 15 years of experience in service-based industries, I have cultivated a significant understanding of community dynamics and the importance of fostering meaningful connections. Throughout my career, I have guided businesses to establish and sustain impactful presences within their communities. These experiences have equipped me with skills in strategic planning, effective communication, and collaborative decision-making — qualities that I am eager to use to support our school. Furthermore, my experiences advocating for small and family businesses and understanding of government policy development will support me to advocate for policies and programs that prioritise the needs of our community and, particularly, our children's education. My enduring connection to the local community, coupled with my professional background, positions me to contribute meaningfully to the board's efforts. I am deeply passionate about ensuring that our school thrives, fostering not only academic growth but also holistic development and inclusive community engagement. I am committed to working alongside administrators, educators, and parents to uphold our school's values, and support a brighter future for all our students.

Veronica Briceno

Candidate for Parent Member

I would like to express my interest on being part of the Yarralumla school board. My daughter is in year 1 and I would like to be involved in her education, and the decisions that shape it, by being an active member of the school community. I'm an ecologist with experience in teaching, community education and policy. I would like to influence and promote a Nature friendly school which also serves as a community hub.

Christina Falsone

Candidate for Parent Member

As a dedicated parent of two YPS students (currently in Year 5 and Year 1), and active member of our school community, I am nominating for one of the vacant parent member positions on our school board. I am and would continue to be a strong advocate for the Italian bilingual educational approach and, also, for a nurturing, inclusive educational environment at YPS that meets students' academic, physical, emotional, and social development needs. I bring to the role valuable skills drawn from my experience as a parent, business owner, social researcher, community volunteer, board member and advocate. These include knowledge and skills in governance, financial management, community and stakeholder engagement and consultation, and strategic thinking, planning and advice. I am energetic, collaborative, and good at bringing together diverse perspectives and finding a way forward. My business is focused on providing strategic advice to organisations tackling social issues. Over the last 25 years, I have conducted research and provided advice on a wide range of issues and policy areas, including education, public health, gender equality, climate change and the environment. In this capacity, I have also previously been an advisory board member to a charity focused on early childhood education. Outside of work, I have many interests and activities, including community work - at various times you can find me coaching novice triathletes, managing kids' soccer teams, manning sausage sizzles, volunteering at school, raising funds for charity, growing veggies, and performing as an actor.

Thanks for considering me as a candidate for the board position.

P & C News

YPS PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION / ASSOCIAZIONE GENITORI E CITTADINI

Dear parents, carers, teachers, students and friends from the YPS community

YPS P&C ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 18 MARCH 2024

The P&C's AGM was held on Monday 18 March 2024. Thank you to all of those who attended, both in person and online. The good news is that all Executive Committee positions have been filled by enthusiastic volunteers, some continuing from 2023 and some new parents. It is looking like it will be a great team this year!

Of course, the P&C is always keen to have further general members on the Executive Committee. New members can be appointed by casual vacancy throughout the year. If you would like to join at any time, please email me on president@ypspandc.com. The more members we get on our Executive Committee, the more we will be able to achieve for YPS.

SEESAW - WINDOW INTO THE CLASSROOM!

YPS pays a large amount of money so that families can use the Seesaw app as a wonderful window into their child's classroom. Signor Evans often reports at P&C meetings how many parents are visiting SeeSaw. This is always a lower number of parents than I am expecting.

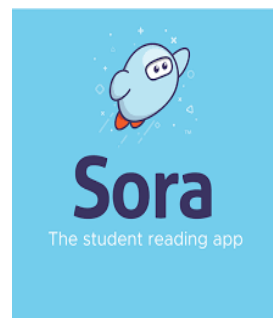
Different classes use Seesaw in different ways. Some classes allow students to post their own content on Seesaw about something that they have found fun. Other classes post interesting group and/or individual updates from the teachers. If you are not receiving Seesaw updates, you might wish to speak to your child's teacher to

The Seesaw logo, featuring the word "Seesaw" in a stylized, rounded, purple font.

ensure that you have the right logins to receive posts. It is always a lovely surprise to see a Seesaw notification pop up during the working day!

SORA - E-BOOKS AND AUDIOBOOKS

There is another app I wanted to mention - **Sora**. The ACT Education Directorate provides free access to Sora. This app contains over 7,000 e-books and audiobooks suitable for primary school aged students. The e-books come in both read-to-yourself format and read-along format. All the authors beloved by my kids had their books on Sora. The audio books are wonderful for long drives or maybe in bed at night. The e-books are wonderful for travelling so you don't have to lug around heavy books. The only downside is that I have not found any books in Italian on Sora.



All students at ACT public schools appear to have Sora access. To start, download the Sora app or go to <https://soraapp.com/>. Select **ACT Education Directorate** when asked to find your school (not YPS). The Username will be your child's seven digit student number. The passwords are set by YPS so please inquire with your child's teacher to use this amazing resource that is available to all of us.

YPS P&C GENERAL MEETING - 18 MARCH 2024

The P&C held a regular P&C meeting after the AGM on Monday night. To be honest, this part of the night was much more interesting than the election of P&C office bearers at the AGM!

Unfortunately Signor Evans was away so we missed his usual fascinating report. However, the following topics were discussed with passion and interest all round.

YPS House names. This was a topic of great interest, noting the continuing temporary colour house names. Where is this at? Who is deciding? When do suggestions close? How will voting occur? When will voting occur? What are the options? Who is culling the names to a shortlist? We hope for resolution of this issue very soon.

P&C fundraising transfers to YPS. This topic generated a lot of debate, particularly why the P&C had not transferred more money to YPS in 2022 and 2023. Members questioned the P&C Executive about how funding decisions are made in relation to P&C money.

YPS funding. This flowed into a discussion of how YPS is funded more generally by other sources of money. Voluntary contributions, funding from the ACT Education Directorate, grants? Who makes decisions about what funding is spent on, both infrastructure and resources? How are these decisions made? How is the Italian bilingual program funded? Does it get special funding due to the unique nature of the program?

Fundraising from 2023 Colour Run. This further flowed into a discussion about the mechanics of the expenditure of the money from the 2023 Colour Run.

Parent WhatsApp groups. This topic generated much debate. As background, earlier in the year the P&C publicised parent-run WhatsApp groups for each year group with the view to facilitating wide participation and communication amongst the YPS community.

The WhatsApp groups are a wonderful way of reminding parents of events, sign ups, volunteering opportunities, school note return requirements, birthday party invitations and more. They can also involve parents expressing frustrations and/or concerns about matters concerning YPS.

Debate on the subject of the WhatsApp groups covered a wide variety of views. Are the WhatsApp groups simply the 2023 equivalent of 'school gate discussions' amongst parents in the past? What should happen if the WhatsApp discussions were to damage an individual's reputation? What other ways are there of dealing with issues that are discussed on WhatsApp? What could happen if WhatsApp group discussions were considered to be defamatory? Is setting communication rules for a WhatsApp group limiting parents' free speech and their ability to collectivise? What would an appropriate code of conduct for a WhatsApp group be?

No resolutions resulted from these debates. However, there was broad agreement that discussions on WhatsApp should be respectful of all.

And finally, if there are any YPS families who are not members of a WhatsApp group for their child's year, please email president@ypspandc.com with the following information and the P&C will put you in touch with the relevant WhatsApp group administrator.

1. Your name and mobile number; and
2. Your child's name, year and class name

ANNIVERSARIO DELL'UNITÀ D'ITALIA

Last Sunday, 17 March, was the anniversary of the day on which Italy was proclaimed as a unified nation state in 1861 (noting there was still more to do).

This day is recognised by Italians as *Giornata dell'Unità nazionale, della Costituzione, dell'inno e della bandiera*, the Day of National Unity, the Constitution, the anthem and the flag.

Let us note that 2024 is the 163rd anniversary of the Unification of Italy. This is particularly notable at YPS, where we learn Italian, fly the Italian flag with pride outside our school and sing the Italian national anthem with joy each assembly.



FESTA DEL PAPÀ

And lastly, while Australia celebrates Father's Day on the first Sunday of September every year, Italians celebrate their *Festa Del Papà* on 19 March.

Festa Del Papà fell on Tuesday this week. We wish all the Italian fathers and special men of YPS who may be celebrating *Festa Del Papà* a wonderful day. Hopefully you get to double up and also celebrate on Sunday 1 September for Australian Fathers Day!



That's all from the P&C. Until next time, grazie mille!

Patience

Patience Neal

P&C President

Presidente dell'Associazione Genitori e Cittadini

president@ypspandc.com

Learning Journey

Our Learning Journey is on Tuesday **26 March (next Tuesday)** from **8:30-10:00am**

School Photos

Our School Photo Day is Monday 25 March. Please make sure your child is wearing their summer uniform.



PBL at Yarralumla Primary School

As we enjoy the last of the warmer days for the year, our school has been focused on demonstrating the STAR values in our outdoor settings. This includes our playground equipment, sandpit, basketball courts and the oval. We are very lucky to be surrounded by such a wonderful outdoor space and we want to ensure we are being respectful to our environment and the people using it. STAR behaviours in our outdoor settings look like:

	Safe	Team player	Active Learner	Respectful
<i>Oval and basketball court</i>	We are sun smart Report damage and spills Use equipment appropriately	Invite others to play Be a good sport Share equipment	Play by the rules Listen for the school bell and alarms Eat in designated area	Put rubbish in the bin Use kind words while playing with others
<i>Play equipment</i>	Wait your turn Only one a time on each piece of equipment Use equipment appropriately	Help each other Be a good sport Share equipment	Take turns Listen for the school bell and alarms	Wait your turn Pick up any rubbish you see
<i>Sandpit</i>	Be sand safe Keep shoes on	Share sandpit toys	Listen for the school bell and alarms	Leave sandpit tidy and level Remove sand from clothes and shoes

This fortnight we have had 5 students receiving E-Star awards at COLA – does your child have a STAR badge that they proudly wear to school each day? More and more students are receiving their badges for reaching 50, 100 and 200 E-star awards!

Keep shining like the STARS you are! ★ ★ ★
PBL Team



Our lovely librarian Beth needs some parents to repair, cover and shelve books in our library collection. If you have some spare time and would like to volunteer, please see her in the library.

Counsellor Corner

Welcome to another school year at Yarralumla Primary School! We hope the transition back to school has been a smooth and happy one. If you have a child who has started Kindergarten (or later years!) and is experiencing separation anxiety, these are some great tips from Australian parenting guru, Maggie Dent:

- Tell your child to imagine you are sending them rainbows of love from your heart to theirs and ask them to send one to you when they miss you.
- Draw funny pictures on their lunch bags or leave a lovely note in their lunch box.
- Teach them how to take 3 big breaths and breathe out the butterflies hiding in their tummy or gently rub their tummy telling the butterflies they are safe.
- Have them wear a lanyard with a photo of someone they love – they can look at it often and even ‘talk’ to them throughout the day.
- Help build a special connection to one teacher or staff member who is nurturing their transition to school. Have a photo of them up at home and talk about them sometimes.

You can read more in her blogs:

<https://www.maggiedent.com/blog/10-tips-ease-separation-distress>

Something we focus on at school is the development of prosocial skills such as sharing, taking turns and being respectful. These are skills that sometimes take a while to learn, just like reading, maths, and riding a bike. Prosocial behaviour is important for developing healthy relationship skills and has even been shown to enhance mental functioning and improve academic performance in children.

Here are ideas that you as parents and carers can do to support the development of prosocial behaviour in your children:

- Be ready to listen if your child wants to talk about school. This can be a great chance for you to express your family values about things like kindness, respect for self and others etc
- Praise your child for sharing, taking turns and playing fair. Point out what your child did well. For example, ‘I thought it was respectful and fair the way you shook hands with the other team at the end of the game’.
- Talk about things people do that make a difference to others and why this is good.
- Talk about how your child’s behaviour might affect others. For example, ‘Imagine if we only brought enough birthday cake for your friends. How would the other people in your class feel?’
- Give your child opportunities to do helpful or kind things.
- Talk about the thoughts and feelings of characters in stories or TV shows.

You can read more about these skills at Raising Children, the Australian Parenting website, where you’ll find videos, articles and apps backed by Australian experts:

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/toddlers/behaviour/encouraging-good-behaviour/prosocial-behaviour-kindness-children-teens>

Asking our kids about their school day... 😊

As parents and carers, we often want to know about our child’s school day. Sometimes we don’t get very much information which can be frustrating – however it is important to understand that excessive questioning can be stressful for kids. Here are some simple prompts that may improve these conversations for you and your child...

QUESTIONS AREN'T CONNECTIONS

QUESTIONS CAN *INCREASE*
ANXIETY FOR MANY KIDS.

instead, try statements that show you are interested and paying attention:

- How was school?
- Did your test go ok?
- Are you having fun?
- Did you get along with other kids?

- You look like you've had a long day.
- I was thinking about you during your math test.
- Your smile is SO big!
- I remember you were worried the other kids might not be friendly..

@LINDSAYBRAMAN



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SRC Fundraising for Australia for UNHCR

Care famiglie,



Questo trimestre stiamo organizzando una raccolta fondi per **Australia for UNHCR**, in particolare per famiglie di profughi che necessitano aiuto per alloggio e accesso ad acqua potabile. Incoraggiamo tutti gli studenti a fare una donazione per questa buona causa. Ci saranno anche dolci da comprare con \$1 o \$2. Per le donazioni confidiamo nella vostra generosità. Grazie!



Quando: venerdì 22 marzo 2024

Cordiali saluti,
I rappresentanti del comitato degli studenti

Dear Families,

This term we are organising a fundraising event for **Australia for UNHCR**. With your donations you can support refugee families in need of safe, weatherproof shelters and clean water. Moreover, if students would like to buy a treat, there will be cupcakes and cookies for \$1 or \$2. We welcome all gold coin and paper money donations and trust your generosity. Thank you!

When: Friday 22 March 2024
World Water Day: 'Water for Peace'

Uniform on, please 😊

Kind regards,
The Students' Representative Council

Early Childhood Setting

It has been a rainbow of colour in the Early Childhood setting this week as we celebrate Harmony week. Thank you to the families that have shared photos to assist with this. Also, we have been spoilt with many visitors in our classrooms to share significant information about different cultures that we have across the 3 classes. Thank you so much for taking the time to share with us, we have all learned new things.

Maestra Mandy, Alaina, Kanthi, Paola, Mandy, Kirsty & Angela

Kinder to Year 6 – Book Packs 2024

Dear Families,

Thank you to our families who have already contributed towards the cost of the 2024 book packs, the school greatly appreciates your support. For those families who are new to the school, stationery supplies have been ordered in bulk and delivered to your child's classroom to assist in setting up students for learning success in 2024. The book packs have all the necessary consumable items that your child will need throughout 2024 such as pencils, exercise books, scissors, handwriting books and art and craft supplies. This allows learning from day 1 term 1, the school is able to purchase resources at a reduced cost so we can pass on the savings to families, it is a more sustainable process with less waste and increases preparation time for teachers. We are also purchasing Italian textbooks for all children participating in our bilingual program, which is reflected in the higher cost of the bilingual program book pack. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 61423250 or info@yarralumlaps.act.edu.au

We are asking families to contribute \$88 per child for English only and \$104 for our bilingual program.

Contribution Payment Slip – Book Packs 2024

The school has made every effort to keep the cost for the book pack at a minimum level. If necessary families can confidentially discuss support to meet the cost of the pack. Please contact the Front Office if you would like to speak with the Principal Rohan.Evans@ed.act.edu.au or the Business Manager Tatiana.richards@ed.act.edu.au to organise a payment plan or financial support.

Student Name: _____

I am paying the amount of \$ _____ Please note that contributions towards the 2024 Book Packs can be made in instalments and are accepted throughout the year.

☐ EFTPOS available at the school

☐ Quickweb via the payment tab on our school website Fee Code **Book Pack**

If you fill in this form, your personal information and that of your child will be collected and handled by the ACT Education Directorate (EDU) This information is necessary for us to manage student participation in excursions and support the welfare and safety of your child. If you do not consent to supply us with this information your child will be unable to participate in the excursion. Normally, we will not use or disclose this information for another purpose, without your consent, unless you would reasonably expect us to use or disclose the information for a related purpose. Normally we only share information with school staff and, where necessary, parents or volunteers assisting with the excursion to appropriately and effectively manage the excursion. The Directorate has a privacy policy that explains how we handle personal information, including how we handle privacy complaints. The policy is available on the Directorate's website (www.det.act.gov.au) on the About Us page.

Student Voice

From Aija Tuisk and Sarelia Nockles

The second week of the student voice!

We are going to interview children around the school. Today, we have an amazing topic, the swimming carnival or water fun day for Kindergarten and Year 1. We are interviewing Jack in Year 6, Ava in year two, and Safirah and Adeline in Year 1.

Find us in two weeks at lunch on Tuesday if you want to be interviewed.

Jack in Year 6

Aija: "Did you compete in any races at the swimming carnival?"

Jack: "Yes"

Aija: "Which ones and what was your favourite race?"

Jack: "Freestyle and breaststroke fifty metres, Breaststroke because I won."

Aija: "Thanks!"

Safirah and Adeline in Kindy

Sarelia: "Did you like water fun day?"

Safirah and Adeline: "Yes! We loved it!"

Aija: "What was your favourite activity?"

Safirah: "Misty, when the sprinklers are on and we play in them."

Adeline: "Squirting people with the squirters!"

Both of us: "Thank you!"

Ava in Year 2

Aija: "Did you compete in any races?"

Ava: "No"

Sarelia: "Did you like the activities?"

Ava: "Yes"

Aija: "What was your favourite one?"

Ava: "The sponge land activity"

Sarelia: "Thanks"

Community News

Socceroos vs Lebanon



Students now have a chance to see the Socceroos stars live in action! They take on Lebanon on Tuesday the 26th of March at GIO Stadium. Get 10% off your tickets!

<https://premier.ticketek.com.au/shows/show.aspx?sh=SOCCBRU124&ep=COMMUNITY>

Young Engineers Robotics LAB

Term 1 2024
Enrol Now

Group 1
Bricks Challenge
Kindergarten to Year 2
Fees \$269
9 Weeks Program

Group 2
Engineering+Robotics
Year 3 to Year 6
Fees \$279
9 Weeks Program

Yarralumla Primary School
Every Wednesday
Weekly Classes
From 3.15pm to 4.30pm

Program starting on the 14th of Feb 24

Follow the booking link below and look for your school
<https://app.classpro.com/portal/yecbr/booking>

Contact us:
0490808138
canberra@young-engineers.com.au
www.young-engineers.com.au

Payment is online and will be calculated automatically at the checkout on pro-rata basis.

CHESS!!

Learn to be a chess champion! Coaching for students at Yarralumla Primary School (ACT) is held on Wednesdays from 11:00am to 11:50am, starting on 14 February 2024.

Learning and playing chess helps children develop their logical thinking and problem solving skills, improves their concentration and focus, while also being a great source of enjoyment.

Activities include group lessons on a demonstration chess board or interactive whiteboard, puzzle solving and fun practice games.

Students earn merit awards by making checkmates, or by displaying skills and positive qualities, which all good chess players strive to develop.

Each student in the Chess program will also receive access to Chess Squad <https://www.chesssquad.com/> which is an online teaching/playing platform.

If your child is interested in taking part in the class, please email office.sydneyacademy@gmail.com for an enrolment form. For all enquiries, please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 9745 1170.