



**YARRALUMLA PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
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**4 April 2024 NEWSLETTER NO. 5**

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Friday 5 April	South Weston Swimming Carnival
Friday 12 April	Last Day of Term 1
Monday 8 April	Wombats – Spider Park
Thursday 11 April	Bilbies – Spider Park
Monday 29 April	Term 2 Starts (Pupil Free Day)
Tuesday 30 April	Students return to school
Saturday 4 May	EC Working Bee 9am-12pm
Tuesday 7 May	ACT Swimming Carnival
Tuesday 7 May	Wombats – Mother's Day Stay and Play
Thursday 9 May	Bilbies – Mother's Day Stay and Play
Thursday 9 May	Year 3 Birrigai Excursion
Thursday 16 May	Yarralumla Cross Country
Tuesday 11- Wednesday 12 June	Year 4 Birrigai Camp
Tuesday 18- Thursday 20 June	Year 5/6 Sydney Camp

## **Our Vision**

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the last newsletter for term 1. This term has been made up of 11 weeks where our students have excelled in all areas of the curriculum. It has been fantastic to see so many of our community at the Learning Journeys, Getting to Know You interviews and the Welcome Picnic run by the P&C. We have also provided opportunities volunteering at the swimming carnival, excursions and assisting in classrooms.

### **Morning Drop Off**

A teacher is on duty from 8:30am each morning. If you arrive at YPS before 8:30am please wait with your child until the teacher comes out on duty. Before school care is available to families from 7:30am if you require it. Please remember that the front drive circle is a pick-up and drop off zone only. If you wish to come onto grounds with your child please park in one of the available car parks or streets surrounding the school.

### **Reminder – Monday 29 April 2024 is a Pupil Free Day**

A friendly reminder to all parents and carers that there are 3 remaining student-free days for ACT public schools in 2024. These are the first day of each school term:

**Term 2 – Monday 29 April 2024**

Term 3 – Monday 22 July 2024

Term 4 – Monday 14 October 2024

Student-free days are for staff development, enabling teachers and schools to plan in a student-free environment. The increase in student-free planning days from 2024 is part of our Teaching Staff Enterprise Agreement, which prioritises better teacher workloads for educational leadership, teaching and learning.

### Building Works

Plumbing works are currently occurring behind the Gambari building to replace the pipes that have broken over the years.

### Assembly

Congratulations to all our merit and STAR award winners at the week 10 whole school assembly on Wednesday. Congratulations to all our swimmers who were presented with their ribbons from the recent school swimming carnival. We wish all our South Weston swimmers well for the district carnival this Friday.

### School Review

For the past five years YPS has been working on improving student growth in writing and numeracy as part of its strategic plan. This week we had our review team visit the school for a one-day preliminary visit to discuss our progress. The team will return in term 2 for a three-day visit to assist the school in developing a new strategic plan and celebrating the school's successes.

Keep smiling,

Rohan Evans

## Message From Lauren

There's been so much chatter in the media about Explicit Instruction and how it supports students to learn and thrive in school. We are well on the journey to understanding how the research impacts our practice. You may remember that all staff at Yarralumla Primary undertook professional learning at the beginning of the year that was all about Explicit Instruction – we've been continuing with our learning all term. As a school we have been unpacking our proficiencies using a capability matrix – aligning our current practice with some targeted areas for improvement.

Our implementation of the K-2 systematic phonics program is humming along, with the team working to collect data to better understand student abilities, as well as working with each other to observe lessons in practice. Our 3-6 team have been undertaking a cycle of inquiry to find a best fit for explicit phonics teaching that suits our bilingual setting.

If you're interested to learn more about Explicit Instruction, you might like to visit [Explicit Instruction - Five from Five](#), or come and have a chat with me!

Lauren

Lauren Bruhwiler | Deputy Principal

## Star Award



# STAR AWARD

Awarded to

*Ian F*  
*April 2024*



Ian is a student who daily demonstrates all the STAR values in the classroom and on the playground. He is an active learner who is focused, attentive and always approaches his tasks with diligence. Ian is a Team Player and Respectful to his teachers and peers. He quietly helps fellow students who ask for help, he is patient and kind. He behaves in a safe manner and uses science equipment in a safe, sensible manner and plays safe on the playground. Bravo, Ian!



## STAR AWARD

Awarded to

***Ted I***  
***April 2024***



Ted displays the STAR values of being a Team Player and showing Respect to a fellow student who sits next to him. Ted gently explains what the task or exercise is and guides the student through the task step by step. Ted demonstrates patience and kindness to a level of maturity and competence beyond his year level and age. These are commendable qualities that Ted practises during class time.



## STAR AWARD

Awarded to

***Isabelle B***  
***April 2024***



*Isabelle is so very well deserving of this STAR award. She is a friendly and diligent student who consistently applies 100% effort to all learning activities. She uses good manners, demonstrates respect when sharing thoughts and contributing to class discussions. On a daily basis she also shows kindness and care for her classmates and teachers.  
Congratulations on being a true Yarralumla STAR!*



## STAR AWARD

Awarded to

***Xavier M***  
***April 2024***



Xavier exemplifies being an active learner in the classroom, always ready and waiting respectfully when the class is changing lessons or topics. He enjoys contributing to discussions, particularly in science. Xavier is an efficient independent learner and works well in team situations. He is responsible and respectful of everyone in our class, helping make Zafferano a harmonious and considerate place through his attitudes and actions in Term 1. *Congratulations on being a true Yarralumla STAR!*



## P & C News

### YPS PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION / ASSOCIAZIONE GENITORI E CITTADINI

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

#### **FESTA FANTASTICA 2024 - SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER, 3-7PM**

After a five year hiatus, there will be a *Festa Fantastica* in 2024! The P&C last did this in 2019. We are so excited to be in a *Festa* year!

A *Festa* is the YPS version of a school fete (but much more fun) and, of course, it is focused on our Italian bilingual school environment!

**Festa Committee:** Would you like to join a special organising committee just for the *Festa*? Please email us on [president@ypspandc.com](mailto:president@ypspandc.com) if you'd like to be part of the planning and organising team.

**Class stalls:** Putting on a *Festa* is a whole-of-community undertaking. The P&C will be asking each class to organise a particular aspect of the *Festa*. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know your child's cohort while working together. We will also need 1-2 families to nominate as the head organisers for the stall. Please consider nominating!

**Special skills:** To give our *Festa* a real carnival atmosphere, we are hoping to draw on the special skills that members of our community might have. Here are some ideas that we came up with, but please don't feel limited by this list. If you have a special skill that would be fun, interesting, funny or inspiring, please let us know! To get you started, in no particular order:



Juggler	Card trick champion	Fortune teller	Balloon modeller
Masseur	Caricature artist	Magician	Saxophonist
Tap dancer	Henna tattoo artist	Hair braider	Face painter
Puppeteer	Basketball extraordinaire	Barber	Unicycle artist
Tumbler	Chess master	Beatboxer	Stilt walker
Mime artist	Bubbleologist	Trombonist	Silhouette artist

**Non YPS participation:** Our *Festa* will be even bigger with the participation of non-YPS entities. Some examples (but please don't feel limited by these):

- Are you a member of a local community group? We would love to hear from you if you think that your group would like to put on a demo at the *Festa*. It could be sport or music or art or something else entirely!
- Do you know any professional sporting teams who might be able to make an appearance at the *Festa*?
- Do you work for an organisation which does interesting and impressive activities that could be demonstrated in a fun way at a *Festa*? Defence? Fire & Rescue? Emergency services? National Parks? Rural Fire Service? Police?
- Do you run a business that would like to run a market stall at the *Festa*? It could be food-related or related to the holiday season / Christmas (noting the *Festa* is in late November)

The ***Festa Fantastica 2024*** is on! It is a truly fantastic event for us to all come together.

### **MOTHERS DAY STALL - FRIDAY 10 MAY 2024**

It is nearly time for *La Festa della Mamma*!

The Annual YPS Mother's Day stall is a much-loved opportunity for YPS students to purchase gifts for the special women in their lives.

We would be grateful if each family could donate a suitable gift or gifts for sale. Candles! Moisturisers! Chocolate! Kitchenware! Stationery! Face towels! A book! Food! Bracelets! Just give something that you would like to receive. Gifts will be sold for \$5.

There is no need to wrap donations as the gifts need to be able to be set out to be seen and selected by students as they find the perfect gift. If you do need to wrap a donation, please use clear wrap.

We would be grateful if families could start collecting gifts to be donated. There will be a box for donations near the Front Desk.

Are you able to volunteer at the Mother's Day on the Friday morning? We will need helpers throughout the morning, 9-12, for the whole time or for an hour or two. If you can help, please email [fundraising@ypspandc.com](mailto:fundraising@ypspandc.com). It is a lot of fun!



### **P&C WINTER DISCO - FRIDAY 28 JUNE 2024**

This year, we will be having our annual YPS P&C Disco in June. It will be cold outside but it will be warm and crazy inside the YPS hall!

DJ Cliff is booked and ready to go. **Save the date!**

## P&C GRANTS PROGRAM

The P&C has introduced a grants program for initiatives which promote the objectives of YPS and the P&C. The P&C welcomes applications for grant funding from staff, students, parents, the SRC and other members of the YPS community. We will promulgate the application form by separate email specifically related to the grants program.

At this stage, this is just a heads-up to all YPS community members that we will soon be seeking grant applications. Please start thinking about what you would like to see the P&C fund so that you can be ready to make application for funding. How will it benefit the YPS community? Do you have a costs estimate? Do you have a quote?

**Parents and teachers** - please let students know that this opportunity is also available to them and we would welcome their applications (as well as yours!).

Grazie mille!

Patience

**Patience Neal**

P&C President

Presidente dell'Associazione Genitori e Cittadini

[president@ypspandc.com](mailto:president@ypspandc.com)

## PBL at Yarralumla Primary School


It is already week 10 and our students have really been shiny like STARS in all settings. This week we are focusing on the two settings of the front office and library – spaces that we visit often!

Being a team player in these settings looks like:

	<b>Safe</b>	<b>Team player</b>	<b>Active Learner</b>	<b>Respectful</b>
<i>Office/Library</i>	Be in the right place at the right time  Use equipment properly	Help others  Keep area tidy	Follow instructions	Wait quietly  Use manners

As we near the school holidays, our students have also been talking in their classrooms about what it means to be a STAR when online. Last week we had a look at what our star values are like in cyberspace and we would like to take this opportunity to remind families about being safe online.

	<b>Safe</b>	<b>Team player</b>	<b>Active Learner</b>	<b>Respectful</b>
<i>Cyberspace</i>	Only access approved sites	Log off  Report damaged devices	Stay on task  Report inappropriate use to an adult	Use devices correctly  Return devices and recharge

Keep shining like the STARS you are!   
PBL Team

## Counsellor Corner

We hope everyone had a lovely Easter weekend and enjoyed the longer break together!

A common issue in families is how to balance the use of social media and digital devices whilst maintaining well-being for children and adolescents.

Gaining an understanding of how the brain responds to technology can help us and our children better manage finding that optimal balance. We know from neuroscience that we get a spike of the neurotransmitter dopamine when we're on social media, gaming or enjoying an ice cream. These spikes in dopamine can then shape our habits and how we spend our free time.

If we can lay healthy foundations for our children during their primary school years, we are setting them up with the best chance of success in the future, across mental and physical health.

Here are some tips around setting boundaries & establishing healthy device habits:

1. After setting aside the device, put it out of sight (for example, up the top of a cupboard.)
2. Notice if your child feels worse or better after an activity like video gaming compared to listening to an audiobook. If your child is 'hooked' on their video game, you're more likely to have conflict when you ask them to stop. It won't matter how much time you've let them play – in fact, the more time, the more likely they feel (and behave) worse at the end of the activity. Limit the frequency and duration, stay strong and calm, and offer another preferred activity when the time is up.
3. Create "microenvironments" – have only one place in your home where children use the phone or tablet – not at the dining room table or in their bedroom.
4. Find family activities where you can connect with each other and take a break from devices. Enjoyable activities that give a healthy spike in dopamine could include family bike rides, going out for dinner or cooking together, playing a board game or building a fort! Remember to be the best model of healthy digital use as you build these healthy habits for your children.

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/babies/play-learning/media-technology/screen-time>

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:Rohan.Evans@ed.act.edu.au) or the Business Manager [Tatiana.richards@ed.act.edu.au](mailto: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](http://www.det.act.gov.au)) on the About Us page.

## Voluntary Contributions

Dear families and communities,

We are nearing the end of Term 1 and we hope that students have settled into the school year. It is that time of year again when the school is seeking voluntary contributions from families.

Voluntary contributions are important for our ongoing operations of YPS and enhance school activities by providing enriched learning opportunities for our students. Funds from voluntary contributions allow the school to acquire essential resources such as home readers in both English and Italian bilingual, as well as e-learning subscriptions like Matific, iMaths, and Education Perfect.

We understand that the cost of living has increased, and we appreciate the many demands on family budgets. In this regard, we are grateful for your ongoing support and dedication to YPS. Your contributions play a significant role in supporting the educational experience for all our students.

While the ACT Government provides funding to schools for their operational needs, such as salaries, cleaning, maintenance, and utilities, it is important to note that Yarralumla Primary School (YPS) receives the same funding as any other mainstream government school in Canberra. This means that, despite our rich and diverse offerings, including our preschool to year 6 English only curriculum, many of the activities, services, and resources at YPS are financed through fundraising activities organised by the P&C, donations, and voluntary contributions.

Voluntary contributions play an important role in supplementing the school budget and ensuring that YPS can continue to provide its unique school environment, which offers various opportunities to our children, starting from preschool and Montessori programs. These contributions support initiatives such as small group spaces, pathways to our Italian bilingual program, and our English-only program.

In order to support all students in reaching their full potential, we rely on the support of our community. However, it is important to emphasise that the payment of contributions is entirely voluntary, and no child will be disadvantaged if a contribution has not been made. Given the current economic climate, we appreciate any contribution families make.

At YPS, there are two types of contributions that can be made:

**Family Contribution (Preschool):** This contribution directly benefits the school by providing funds for additional items that are not covered by the directorate funding. These funds help create high-quality and effective learning environments for our students. We kindly request a contribution **of \$220 per child or discounted to \$200 if paid by the end of week 4, term 2.**

**Family Contribution (Kindergarten to Year 6):** This contribution directly benefits the school by providing funds for additional items that are not covered by the directorate funding. These funds help create high-quality and effective learning environments for our students. We kindly request a contribution **of \$110 per child or \$160 per family** to assist in this provision.

**Library Trust Fund:** Contributions can also be made to the school's Library Trust Fund. The money donated to this fund is used specifically to purchase resources for the library, including both Italian and English books. Contributions to the Library Fund are tax deductible, and **you are welcome to choose the amount you wish to contribute.**

If you are able to make a voluntary contribution to the school, please utilise one of the following payment methods:

- **Quickweb:** Visit the school's website and use the payment tab. Fee Code: Vol Con (Student Key is the child's surname).
- **EFTPOS:** Please visit the Front Office for assistance with payment.

Thank you for your support.



# SRC FUNDRAISING EVENT (week 8)

On World Water Day (22 March) we raised \$631 for UNHCR.



We would like to thank all students and families for their donations and for their contributions to the bake stall.



GRAZIE per il vostro supporto e per la vostra generosità!  
 THANK YOU for your support and for your generosity!



*YPS Students' Representative Council  
 and  
 YPS Community Leaders*

# Australian Early Development Census



Our Children  
Our Communities  
Our Future



Australian Early Development Census

## Building a national picture of child health

**From May 2024, our school, along with thousands of others across the country, will participate in the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC).**

The AEDC is a teacher-completed census (similar to a questionnaire) which provides a comprehensive picture of how children have developed by the time they start their first year of full-time school.

The AEDC is an Australian Government Initiative and is completed nationally every three years.

Children don't miss any class time while the AEDC is completed, and parents/carers don't need to supply schools with any new information.

The data collected through the AEDC is used by schools, communities and governments to better understand children and families' needs, and identify the services, resources and support they need.

AEDC data is reported at a school, community, state/territory and national level. AEDC results for individual children are not reported and the AEDC is not used as an individual diagnostic tool.

Some teachers have found that completing the AEDC made them more aware of the needs of individual children and their class, and that the data was useful for planning for transitions to Year 1 and developing programs.


Participation in the AEDC is voluntary, however the AEDC relies on all schools with children in their first year of full-time school participating in the collection. Parents/carers don't need to take any action unless they choose not to include their children in the census.

To find out more about the AEDC and how it is being used to help children and families visit:  
[www.aedc.gov.au](http://www.aedc.gov.au).

If you have any questions, you can contact Rohan Evans (Principal) or Claire Hansen (Coordinator) on 02 6142 3250 or [rohan.evans@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:rohan.evans@ed.act.edu.au) or [claire.hansen@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:claire.hansen@ed.act.edu.au).



## Community News






**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.iclasspro.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.



@YECanberra  
#YECanberra

# 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](mailto:office.sydneyacademy@gmail.com) for an enrolment form. For all enquiries, please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 9745 1170.