



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



25 March 2021 NEWSLETTER NO. 4

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday 1 April	Last Day of Term 1
Monday 19 April	First Day of Term 2
Friday 23 April	Year 6 Fundraiser cake stall
Wednesday 28 April	Year 1 Excursion Arboretum

Our Vision

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Communication

Since returning to the school in 2021, I have appreciated the feedback received from parents before and after school when I'm on duty regarding a level of frustration around communication from the school. In the last few weeks I have been working with parents to recreate the term calendar that was in place in 2019 that outlined the events planned during the term to give parents advanced notice about classes hosting assemblies, whole school events including excursions, carnivals and significant days. Parents will receive a term 2 calendar via email next week. This calendar will be updated in week 5 with any further changes. The school will continue to use the newsletter, email, Facebook and the electronic sign at the front of the school as reminders to upcoming events. I have worked with the teachers this week regarding consistency of communication across grade levels and when running whole school events to ensure the community receives the appropriate level of communication.

P&C

A big thank you to the outgoing P&C members who contributed heavily to the school in a very difficult 2020, especially Vincenzo the outgoing President. On Monday night 16 parents joined in the P&C meeting. An email has been sent home to all families regarding the meeting and the positions that are available to be filled in 2021. The P&C is a wonderful organisation who assists greatly in creating a strong community at YPS. YPS is a unique school with many families choosing to attend the school because of the bilingual program and the many programs we offer. The P&C is a positive group of parents sharing ideas to not only raise funds to improve the learning outcomes for students but to also raise the profile of the school in the community. If you have any questions about the positions available on the P&C please do not hesitate to contact me. As the Principal I attend all the meetings and work closely with the President to ensure that the meetings follow the agenda outlined. On occasions topics are raised that are not specific to the purpose of the P&C and they are redirected to me to discuss at another time or for another focus group to work through. Please consider the rolls that are available on the P&C in 2021 and put a nomination form in if you are interested.

Work at front of school

A large section of the grass hill at the front of the school was dug up last week due to a leaking pipe. This pipe has been replaced and grass seed has been placed on the dirt area. The area will remain fenced off while the grass grows. With the recent rain a number of our existing pipes were not able to cope with the amount of

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR Katrina Sanders (Board Chair) Phone: 0413 888 944 Email: katrinasanders1@gmail.com	P&C Vincenzo Fotia (President) Email: president@ypspandc.com	PRINCIPAL Rohan Evans (Principal) Phone: 6142 3250 Email: Rohan.Evans@ed.act.edu.au
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water passing through them. Plumbers have used cameras to inspect the condition of the schools pipes. Details of the conditions of the pipes have been sent to the Directorate to plan for future upgrades.

Holiday work

YPS will receive lead remediation work during the April holidays while the majority of students are at home. Two identified areas are the Montessori classrooms and the YWCA building. YPS has contacted the Directorate and are waiting for media broadcasts to send to the community identifying the specific areas and processes that will be followed. Due to remediation works occurring across multiple ACT Public School Sites during the April holidays the Directorate are preparing media briefs for multiple communities. YPS will email information to families as soon as we receive it.

Lead Paint

More than two-thirds of ACT public schools were built before 1992. Just like homes and businesses of the time schools were painted with lead paint. Lead was added to paint to accelerate drying, increase water-resistance and give a durable, washable finish. It is no longer used. Lead paint is typically found on timber surfaces including window frames, eaves and handrails, but it has also been found in storage, plant and equipment rooms. Through a continual program of site inspections and testing we have identified 75 public schools with buildings that have lead paint. Regular reviews of those buildings monitor the condition of lead paint, ensuring prompt action if required. Any work that could disturb lead paint is done out of school hours. If it is a major project it takes place in the school holidays allowing extra time for follow-up testing to ensure the area is safe for students and staff. Only qualified or licensed contractors are allowed to remove lead paint.

Options to manage lead paint

Lead paint poses a hazard. In other words, it has the potential to cause harm. It becomes a risk when it deteriorates and is swallowed or inhaled. Lead paint remains safe if it is painted over by lead-free paint. This is called encapsulation. There are four main strategies for managing lead paint: leave in place and monitor condition, stabilise the paint (encapsulation), abate or remove a combination of these options. The most appropriate course of action may not be removing the paint. Removing lead paint that is in good condition can produce lead dust which may increase the risk to our school community.

Lead and health

Lead can be harmful to health if it is swallowed or inhaled. Lead poses a greater hazard to children under five years of age. This is because they: tend to put their hands on objects and into their mouths, absorb a higher percentage of ingested lead than adults, their brains are still developing so they are more sensitive to the effects of lead. For this reason, the Education Directorate prioritises remediation work in public preschools and primary schools. One of the most important ways to reduce potential exposure is to make sure that children and young people wash their hands after playing outside and before eating.

ACT Health have updated their information on lead and health. You can find that information on the ACT Health website under [Fact sheets | Health](#) and by clicking through to the “Lead exposure and your health” tab.

What is the government doing?

The ACT Government has committed \$15 million to remove hazardous materials from public schools over the next four years, part of a larger package of \$114 million to upgrade our schools to keep them comfortable and safe. An Education Directorate Taskforce has been established to manage hazardous materials, supported by an Expert Panel. The panel includes academics specialising in lead paint and epidemiology, as well as ACT Health and WorkSafe officials. The taskforce coordinates the management and removal of asbestos and lead paint across our schools. There are specific programs which target hazardous materials, and school upgrades or maintenance work also provides an opportunity to manage these hazards. Only licensed or qualified contractors can undertake hazardous materials works in public schools.

ACT Public Schools and hazardous materials

The Education Directorate manages public school buildings of varying age and condition across the ACT. Telopea Park School in Barton is nearly a century old. It's a significant portfolio with 89 schools located across more than 100 sites, 76 of those schools contain some amount of asbestos and/or lead paint. We conduct regular reviews of all school buildings to check the condition of hazardous materials so we can respond quickly to any emerging issue. The Directorate is committed to ensuring all buildings remain safe for the school community and have the infrastructure to support high-quality education. Significant resources are

invested to maintain public schools. In addition to the \$99 million school upgrade program we carry out regular repairs and maintenance. This work creates an opportunity to address hazardous materials. For example, upgrading school windows to improve comfort for students may include the removal of windows with lead paint. The ACT Government will spend an additional \$15 million over the next four years to accelerate the removal of hazardous materials from public schools. Every school with known hazardous materials has a Hazardous Materials Register. The Register is a collection of reports about what hazardous materials exist in the school, where they are, and how they are being managed. It is used by tradespeople doing maintenance or upgrades so they know where these materials are before they start work. Registers are kept at a school's front office and are public documents.

Expert Panel

An Expert Panel on hazardous materials management in ACT public schools has been established to advise and guide the Education Directorate. The panel includes academics specialising in lead paint and epidemiology. It assists the Directorate's Hazardous Materials Taskforce in areas including: the management of hazardous materials within ACT public school sites, including best practice assessment, sampling, testing and remediation briefing the Director-General or Minister, communications and education materials for students, staff and the broader community.

Responsibility for decision making sits with the Taskforce which is responsible for advising the Director General, the Minister and the ACT Government.

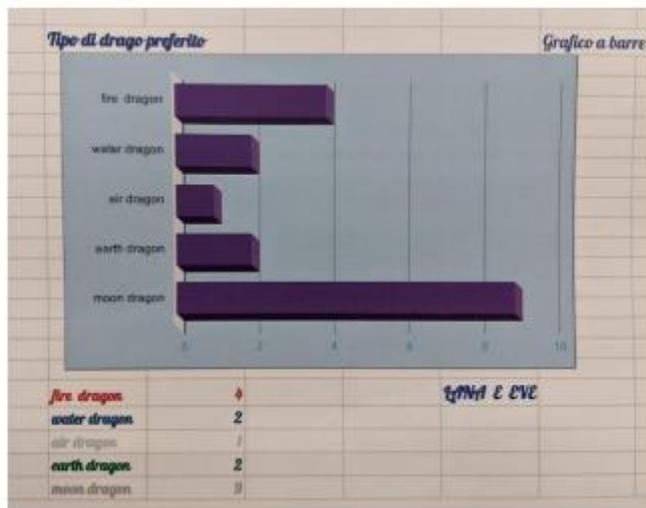
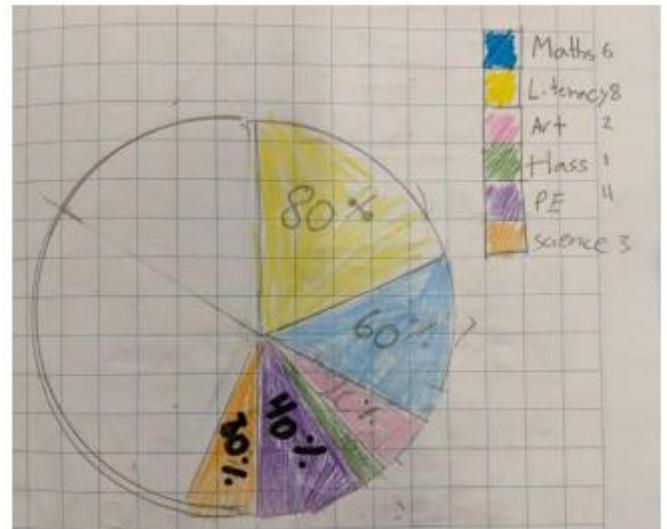
Panel members include: Prof. Mark Taylor - Professor of Environmental Science and Human Health at Macquarie University, Sydney. Prof. Martyn Kirk - ANU Professor of Applied Epidemiology and a career development fellow with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). Robert Alford - Director, Workplace Protection, Office of the Work Health and Safety Commissioner. Jason Kneipp - Director, Environment and Radiation Safety, ACT Health Directorate

Keep Smiling,

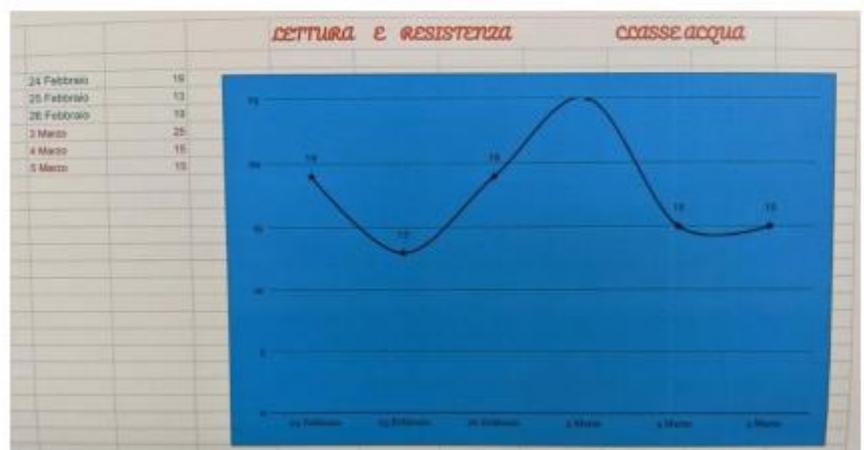
Rohan Evans | Principal

3/4 GRAPHING!

This term we have been learning about collecting and displaying data. Students have collected data by posing questions and asking their peers. They have then created graphs that display their inquiring.



Some students made picture graphs, line graphs, bar/column graphs, pie charts, etc. Here are some examples of our work!



P&C News

P&C Meeting Update

All P&C positions were spilled at the last P&C meeting and only Mr. Kirk Batty was retained as Treasurer. All other positions are still vacant and have been deferred until the next meeting (Monday 10 May 7-9pm YPS staffroom).

P&C Role Descriptions

To assist people who may be interested in the vacant positions I have attached a copy of the position description/s as supplied by the A.C.T. P&C Association. The vacant positions include President, Vice-President and Secretary. I have also supplied a copy of the A.C.T. P&C Associations contact details in case some people would like further information regarding the roles.

ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations | ABN: 53 870 517 949 | 100 Maitland Street, Hackett Tel: 02 62415759 | Email: contact@actparents.org.au | Web: www.actparents.org.au

P&C Positions not filled

If the office bearer positions are not filled, there is an option to run the P&C in a reduced capacity for this year (as an alternative to winding up the P&C). This reduced capacity would not allow any significant spending decisions to support the school and would not allow us to run the Festa. The Festa is our major community engagement and fundraising event run every two years. The P&C fundraising currently supports the Italian Program with up to \$2000 per term. The P&C also provides support to enhance the school environment for our children, \$10 000 was approved last year to assist the school installing a shade sail over one of the playground areas and that work is in progress. Initial discussions with the Principal have identified upgrading and replacing 'soft fall' surfacing in the playgrounds as a potential area where the P&C can provide support.

Year Level Co-ordinators

Other things discussed at the meeting included the concept of having a single person from each year level to be the "go to" person re organising this year's events including the Festa. These 6 (six) coordinators would then be the direct contact for the P&C to each year level regarding each year levels input for things happening around the school, e.g. sports days Mother's and Father's Day and fundraising considerations.

These coordinators when then organise "mini" meetings with their respective year level to organise their specific thoughts around each particular event or concern and relay their message back and forth to and from the P&C to streamline the entire process for all parties.

Thank you

In closing thank you again to everyone for their continued support of the P&C and the school. I offer my full support and best wishes to the new P&C team.

Regards,

Vincenzo Fotia
P&C President

P&C ROLE DESCRIPTION

The President

- chairs all general and executive committee meetings of the association
- provides leadership
- acts as a spokesperson for the association
- reports to P&C meetings about the activities of the P&C (the president's report)
- exercises some supervision over the functions of other office bearers
- ensures adequate and efficient communication exists between the members of the association, the members of the school board and the school/principal
- encourages parents to participate. See the template handover notes on our website for more on the president's role.

The Vice-President

- presides as chair at meetings where the president is absent
- should be familiar with the operation of the P&C and the duties of president
- needs a working understanding of meeting rules and procedure
- undertakes tasks to reduce the burden of the president.

The Secretary

- draws up, in consultation with president, the meeting agendas
- keeps full and correct minutes of P&C proceedings and meetings
- acts upon decisions as directed by the meeting
- attends to the correspondence of the association, checking incoming mail regularly
- looks after the association's documents
- maintains a register of members (unless otherwise stated in the constitution). See the template handover notes on our website for more on the secretary's role.

The Treasurer

- is responsible for all funds received and spent, including all subcommittee accounts
- prepares regular reports to P&C meetings www.actparents.org.au
- prepares the association's account for an annual audit

The Council Delegate

- attends monthly meetings of the ACT Council of P&C Associations (Council)
- represents the views of the school's P&C at Council meetings
- reports back to the P&C on items of interest from Council meetings
- initiates discussion on system-wide issues.



YARRALUMLA ASSEMBLY ROSTER 2021

(Even Weeks)

Year Cohorts to host each fortnight
Wednesday 2:10-3:00

TERM 2

WEEK 2	Year 5/6
WEEK 4	Year 3/4
WEEK 6	Year 2
WEEK 8	Year 1
WEEK 10	NAIDOC



We have an extremely large amount of lost property near the Front Office. We ask all parents to check the lost property for any missing items. Please mark all clothing clearly with your child's full name. Lost property can then be returned promptly to the owner. There are baskets near the Front Office that contain lost property. If your child/ren are missing anything please take the time to check the lost property basket.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

As you will be aware regular attendance at school is critical in the ongoing success of our students at Yarralumla Primary School. We ask that should your child be absent from school, you will receive an absence text message. You must reply to the text message providing the reason for your child's absence. From time to time we notice that students may have had a significant time (in excess of 6 school days) away from school without an absence explanation. In this case we send a letter home requesting a reason for absence and will continue to until this absence is explained. We are extremely willing to work alongside families regarding improving school attendance and would welcome a discussion with your child's teacher or executive teacher on strategies to improve this.

IMPORTANT - STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child/ren are absent for any reason from school, please call the school on 6142 3250, or email the school at info@yarralumlaps.act.edu.au. Please include your child's FIRST AND LAST NAME and CLASS. REMINDER ALL students MUST be signed in and out of the school by a parent or carer.

Year 3 and 5 NAPLAN Online

NAPLAN Online will occur in our school between 11 and 21 May 2021.

NAPLAN Online is a more engaging assessment that adjusts questions to each student's achievement level. It also delivers more precise results to schools and parents more quickly.

NAPLAN provides valuable information to schools and parents about literacy and numeracy achievement. It supports school improvement processes by enabling teachers to monitor student progress over time and to identify areas of strength and development.



Signing in - parents and visitors It is now an ACT government requirement that all visitors to schools (ie. anyone other than students and staff) sign in using the Check in CBR app. The Check in CBR QR code is located at the front office and we ask that anyone visiting the school to volunteer, attend a meeting, help in classrooms and volunteer in the uniform shop please sign in using the QR code and the normal sign in procedure carried out by our front office team. Instructions to download the Check in CBR app can be found at <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/business-and-work/check-in-cbr>



DOWNLOAD CHECK IN CBR APP TODAY

Available on

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Google Play

Download on the
App Store

- » Download the Check In CBR App from the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store.
- » Register your details (required for the first time only).
- » Open the app, select 'check in now' and hover your smartphone camera over the venue's displayed QR Code.
- » Add in any additional people - those who are with you without their own device or app.
- » When the check in is complete, show venue staff the app successful check in screen.

Thank you for supporting COVID-19 contact tracing efforts and doing your bit to keep Canberrans safe.

Questions? Call the **COVID-19 helpline (02) 6207 7244** from 8am-8pm daily

 **ACT**
Government

For further information visit
[covid19.act.gov.au/check-in-cbr](https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/check-in-cbr)

**STOP THE
SPREAD OF
COVID-19**

Community News



NOW @ YOUR SCHOOL

Join our After-school STEM Lab
Every Wednesday starting from 28th April 2021

Check out our School Holiday Camps!

**LEARN
CREATE
IMAGINE
EXPLORE**
with
YE STEM Club

**ENGINEERING
Fun
LEGO
ROBOTICS**

Location: Yarralumla Primary School Library

Programs & Age Groups:
Group 1
LEGO Build-up
Kindergarten to Year 2
Group 2
Engineering+Robotics
Year 3 to Year 6

Time & Duration: 3:15pm -4:30 pm
One workshop per week.

Enrolments are now open

Visit below link for bookings
<https://www.trybooking.com/BPSWN>

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

 @YECanberra  #YECanberra
Limited seats available.



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS™



The next Holiday Happenings edition is now available online.

To see the *Programs, Activities & Events* happening these holidays go to:

www.holidayhappenings.com.au/online-booklet