



YARRALUMLA PRIMARY SCHOOL
24 Loftus Street, Yarralumla ACT 2600
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Website: www.yarralumlaps.act.edu.au



8 February 2024 NEWSLETTER NO. 1

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday 14 February	Assembly Year 3-6 2:10pm
Friday 16 February	Preschool Family Picnic 5pm-6.30pm
Monday 19 February	P&C Meeting 6:30-7:30
Friday 23 February	Montessori Welcome BBQ 5-7pm
Monday 26 February	Wombats Photo Day
Wednesday 28 February	Assembly K-6 2:10pm
Thursday 29 February	Bilbies Photo Day
Friday 1 March	Italian Welcome Twilight Picnic 4:30-7:30pm
Monday 11 March	Canberra Day Public Holiday
Tuesday 12 March	Swimming Carnival Year 2-6 CISAC

Our Vision

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome

2024 is in full swing and we are so excited to have all of our students back at YPS, as well as welcoming some new faces. We had a very settled start to the year with the staff and students benefiting greatly from the transition work that was completed in 2023. Our preschool families participated in a meet the teacher and the students are gradually increasing their hours in the setting. Our Kindergarten students had a great first day having the whole school to themselves. This year our Kindergarten classrooms are in the Gambari building and the students have been enjoying their new space. The teachers participated in professional learning before the students arrived, working with the new Australian curriculum and designing spelling activities for each of the year levels. Our school captains led their first COLA this week and our Year 6 students decided which leadership portfolio they would like to be a part of in 2024.

P&C

Our amazing P&C have organised an Italian Welcome Twilight Picnic on Friday 1 March 2024 (4.30pm – 7.30pm) to bring our community together. There will be food vans available on the evening. Please lock the date into your calendars. The first P&C meeting will be held on Monday 19 February 630-730pm in the YPS staff room. If you have some spare time please come along to the meeting to support the P&C initiatives in 2024.

Assembly

After feedback from our community and our YPS teaching staff in 2024 we are making a small change to how assemblies will be organised. Assemblies will occur in:

Week 3: Yrs 3-6

Week 5: Whole school

Week 7: Yrs 2-6

Week 10: whole school

Before and after school arrangements

As we start a new year please remember there is a teacher on duty from 830am at the front of the school. If you arrive before 830am please wait with your child until the teacher comes outside. Our students finish their classes at 3pm. Please ensure you are on time to collect them. We have two wonderful afterschool care providers if your family requires their services. We understand that on occasions things pop up that cause us to be late. If this is the case please ensure you call the front office so we can ensure your child is waiting safely inside for you.

Staffing

This week we farewell maestra Carrin who is moving interstate with her family. Maestra Carrin has been at YPS for the past six years teaching Year 3/4 for a number of years before moving into our EALD role. She will be a significant loss to our teaching team. Our 5/6 teacher, maestra Larissa has unfortunately had to take personal leave in term 1. Maestra Kris is taking the class with our new Italian language assistant Guendalina assisting with the Italian language learning. We thank Dante Alighieri for their own going support of our Italian bilingual program.

Keep Smiling,

Rohan Evans | Principal

Curriculum and Pedagogy Learning @ Yarralumla

This year's professional learning focus at the beginning of the year unpacked the impact that cognitive science has on how children learn, as well as the impact it has on our teaching practice. We were reminded about how our working memory has a limited amount of 'storage' and that our goal, as educators, is moving important information into our long-term memory to support automaticity of information recall. We undertook learning about explicit and direct instruction for classroom practice and how much of our work with Learning Intentions, Success Criteria and giving feedback on learning aligns with this high impact teaching strategy. Our students will continue to experience modelled, guided and independent learning opportunities in line with the 'I do, we do, you do' approach.

As a staff, we also unpacked our longitudinal NAPLAN data and highlighted the need to refine and refocus on the teaching and learning of spelling at Yarralumla Primary. We applied our understanding of explicit instruction to discuss a common lesson plan to ensure consistency across the school. Our Kinder-Year Two team focussed on the phonics program *Get Reading Right*, and the 3-6 team unpacked how *Soundwaves* can be used to teach learning in the upper grades.

We are looking forward to continuing this focus on research-based pedagogies to support consistency of practice and improved student outcomes at our wonderful school.

Lauren Bruhwiler | Deputy Principal

P & C News

YPS PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION / ASSOCIAZIONE GENITORI E CITTADINI

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

I hope that all YPS families, new and returning, are settling back into the school routine for a year of learning, friendship and fun! I love the buzz of excitement in the early days of term. As this is the first newsletter of the year, I wanted to take this opportunity to put out some FAQs about the YPS P&C which I hope will be useful for new parents.

So, what is a P&C?

The YPS Parents & Citizens' Association (P&C) exists to bring the YPS community together to promote our common purpose of being part of the unique educational environment at YPS for the benefit of all YPS students.

What does the P&C do?

The P&C is a forum for information and discussion about all matters relating to YPS. The P&C raises funds for many aspects of YPS life, including teaching resources, playground improvements and classroom infrastructure. The P&C runs the in-school Uniform Shop. The P&C runs a number of social events throughout the year to enhance YPS's community spirit more broadly.

Who is a member of the P&C?

Probably you, dear reader. All parents and carers of currently enrolled YPS students are automatically P&C members. Our Principal, Signor Evans and staff are ex-officio members of the P&C.

Does the P&C have regular meetings?

Glad you asked! Yes. The P&C meets twice a term on Monday evenings of Week 4 and Week 8, 6.30-8.30 pm. You can come in-person to the YPS staff room or join via the link (generally sent out the day of the meeting via email).

The first meeting will be on Monday 19 February at 6.30pm. Please see separate section of P&C News about this meeting.

Who can come to a P&C meeting?

All P&C members are most welcome to attend. We would love to see as many members as possible! You do not need to RSVP. Simply turn up or join virtually.

What is discussed at P&C meetings?

At most meetings, we are fortunate to be briefed by our Principal, Signor Evans. His presentations at P&C meetings provide a not-to-be-missed opportunity for parents to be comprehensively aware of the wide range of activities happening at YPS. As parents, we are often only aware of a small sliver of YPS activities. Signor Evans' presentations cover all facets of YPS life - and he is happy to answer questions too.

What else happens at P&C meetings?

P&C meetings are a great opportunity to meet other parents and carers. Critically, members vote on how P&C funds should be expended. We plan events and fundraisers. We discuss any and all matters of importance to YPS P&C members, as a forum for parents to raise questions or concerns about YPS.

How do items get onto the agenda for P&C meetings?

There are some standard reports (Principal, President, Treasurer, Uniform Shop). Other agenda items are requested by the Treasurer to approve expenditure. The P&C Secretary will call for agenda items the week prior to the meeting via email from YPS. Any parent is welcome to put an issue on the agenda for discussion. The P&C can accommodate anonymous questions and will respect requests for confidentiality at all times.

How does the P&C operate?

The P&C has an Executive Committee which makes the operational decisions of the association, eg. what events to run, what fundraisers to conduct, prices at the uniform shop etc. The current Executive Committee is comprised of eight parents from across the YPS year groups.

When is the Executive Committee elected?

The Executive Committee is elected at an AGM in Term 1 each year. This year the AGM will be held on Monday 18 March 2024. All positions will be declared empty and nominations will be sought. However, new members are welcome to be elected to the Executive Committee at any time during the year.

How do parents get involved with the P&C?

Apart from meetings, the best way for parents to get involved with the P&C is to volunteer at P&C events. The P&C has no paid staff so our events cannot happen without parent volunteers. It is always a lot of fun to be involved! We will be publishing the 2024 events program in the coming weeks to enable families to plan for the year.

What about the Uniform Shop?

The P&C Uniform Shop always welcomes new volunteers. The Uniform Shop is open 8:30-9am each Friday. It is a wonderful way to get to know the school community in a friendly and relaxed environment. Email uniform@ypspandc.com if you'd like to be part of the team.

How does the P&C communicate with parents?

The P&C will always have a section in the school newsletter. P&C events and meetings are also advertised via the YPS text message system, via the YPS FaceBook page, via the YPS electronic billboard and via email from YPS. Whew! If you would like to communicate directly with the P&C at any time please email president@ypspandc.com.

Does the P&C run WhatsApp groups for each year group?

No. But there are parent-run WhatsApp groups for each year group at YPS. Many families find them to be a great way to communicate with fellow parents in each year group.

If you would like to join the relevant WhatsApp group(s), please email president@ypspandc.com with the following information

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

While these are not P&C groups, we will facilitate putting you in touch with the relevant WhatsApp group administrator.

DANTEDÌ – YPS ITALIAN COMMUNITY PICNIC - FRIDAY 1 MARCH 2024

Dantedi is an international celebration of the Italian language in late March each year.

In 2023, the P&C had an Italian community picnic to celebrate *Dantedi*. This photo was taken last year so you can see what a truly beautiful Yarralumla night it was! After the hugely successful *Dantedi* picnic last year, we are going to do it again in 2024.

We would like to invite you, your family, neighbours and friends to bring along a picnic blanket and celebrate the Italian language together. This will be a fantastic opportunity to meet other families in our community and celebrate the wonderful Italian bilingual environment at YPS.

Save the date! Further details to follow. We look forward to seeing you there!



FIRST P&C MEETING FOR 2024

The first P&C meeting for 2024 will be on Monday of Week 4, Monday 19 February, 6.30-8.30. An agenda will be put out in Week 3, together with a link to join the meeting remotely. We will have snacks and drinks - come along!

If you might consider joining the Executive Committee following the Annual General Meeting (Monday 18 March), please come along to chat with the current Committee about what is involved.

Please forward any issues, concerns or questions that you would like to have discussed at the meeting to secretary@ypspandc.com for inclusion in the agenda.

Grazie mille!

Patience Neal

P&C President

Presidente dell'Associazione Genitori e Cittadini

president@ypspandc.com



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.

PBL at Yarralumla Primary School

In the first two weeks of term, our class teachers and students have been busy setting up their class expectations for the year. As a whole school we have been focusing on what our STAR values look like in all settings around the school:

Be a STAR at Yarralumla!				
	Safe	Team player	Active Learner	Respectful
<i>All Settings</i>	Right place/right time Move safely Hands off feet off Eat only in designated areas Stay in bounds	Look after school property Take responsibility for your actions Work together	Listen to instructions Have a go Actively participate in learning Be ready to learn	Talk politely Follow teacher directions Be considerate of others Share the space

Our teachers are keeping an eye out for students who are showing the STAR values to receive an E-STAR award. So far, we have had 38 students across all grade levels receive an award with Active Learner being the most popular category!

Don't forget to be a SUPERSTAR at Yarralumla!! ★ ★ ★
 PBL Team

Early Childhood Setting News

Our preschool and Montessori students have settled into the 2024 school year like professionals. We look forward to our Montessori 1st years joining us over the coming months. In the EC setting we are learning routines and making new friends which is our focus over the next 2 weeks. Also, the Montessori students are learning about welcoming, in both the inside and outside settings. In Preschool they have a similar focus on belonging. Our staff have been meeting with families to ensure for the smooth transition into school. Our garden area is looking amazing, we have new soft fall in the rock garden, sand in our sandpits and mulch in the garden beds. Thank you to Mandy T and Angela for their wonderful efforts in watering the lawn over the hot days last week.

Preschool & Montessori Team

Yarralumla Primary School will be hosting a ThinkUKnow presentation on **Wednesday 21st February 2024 at 5:00pm in the library** and all parents, carers and teachers are encouraged to attend.

ThinkUKnow Australia is an evidence-based education program delivered nationally to prevent online child sexual exploitation.

ThinkUKnow Australia is a partnership between the Australian Federal Police, Microsoft Australia, Datacom and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. The program is delivered in collaboration with policing partners New South Wales Police Force, Northern Territory Police, Queensland Police, South Australia Police, Tasmania Police, Western Australia Police, as well as Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.

The presentation will be delivered by a local law enforcement member and an industry volunteer. The presentation is pro-technology and addresses topics including self-generated child abuse material, online grooming, sexual extortion, and importantly encourages help seeking behaviour.

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to learn more about young people and the online environment, and how you can help them to be safe and responsible users of technology.

For more information, you can visit www.thinkuknow.org.au or contact Claire.hansen@ed.act.edu.au.

Please note this presentation is aimed at adults and is not suitable for children to attend.

We're proudly supporting Safer Internet Day

6 February 2024



connect. reflect. protect.



Free webinars for parents and carers

connect. reflect. protect.



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.

As it is a new school year, we kindly ask all families to please fill out the attached medical and consent forms. The medical information and consent form is required annually to ensure we have the most accurate medical information for each student and is a requirement for students to attend any excursion.

What forms do I need to complete?

If your child does NOT have a medical condition, you only need to complete the Medical information and consent form.

If your child HAS a medical condition but does not need to have medication stored at the front office, you need to complete the Medical information and consent form and the known medical condition response plan.

If your child HAS a medical condition and needs medication stored or administered at the front office you will need to complete the Medical information and consent form, Known medical Condition response plan and the Medication Authorisation and administration record.

If you have any questions please contact the front office on 6142 3250.

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Please remember we are an **Anaphylactic Friendly School**. Please do not bring **nut** products into the school, and be aware that "Nutella" spread and many muesli/health bars contain nuts.

Office Hours

Our Front Office is staffed from 8.30am – 3.30pm each day. Outside these hours, and if for any other reason the office is not staffed, an answering machine service will be operating and we will return your call as soon as possible.

Anything different happening at home

We encourage you to advise the class teacher of any changes in your child's home routine e.g. birth of a new sibling or a temporary or permanent change in family situation.

School Hours

School commences at 9.00am and concludes at 3.00pm with breaks for lunch break from 11.00 – 11.50am and recess 1.30 – 2.00pm. If your child is late they need to enter the school via the front office and sign-in.

Pick-up Arrangements

If your child is to be collected from school during the day or taken home early, advised their class teacher or front office via email. If your child is going to be picked up by someone you have not listed as a contact please advise the school either in writing, email or by phone. Your child will not be released if we are unable to verify this.

COVID-19 Symptoms

Please keep your child home if they are unwell. If a child comes to school displaying possible COVID-19 symptoms, parents will be called to come and take them home. The main symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, and loss of smell or taste. More information about [symptoms and getting tested](#) is available on the ACT Government [COVID-19 website](#).

Absences

If your child is absent from school due to sickness or other family obligations, it is a legal requirement that you email the class teacher or front office explaining their absence. A phone call to the front office on the day is also appreciated.

Infection and Illnesses

Should your child contract an infection/communicable illness, please notify the office staff. There are certain periods of exclusion that apply to some infections. Please do not hesitate to contact the front office should you need further information. Some highly contagious childhood illnesses have a mandatory exclusion period – details of these can be located on the Directorate's website. For example, more common illness and infections such as vomiting and diarrhoea have an exclusion period of 24 hours after symptoms cease. Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you be unsure whether your child should be excluded from school for any reason.

Management of Medical Conditions/Medication

The school cannot be responsible for the general management of medical conditions. In special circumstances, First Aid staff may be able to assist with the administration of medication. In these cases, departmental policy requires a comprehensive written authority from the student's parents **and** a written statement from the student's doctor authorising a member of the First Aid staff to administer the prescribed medication. Forms may be collected from the Front Office.

Where your child requires specific first aid treatment (that is, specific instructions provided by your child's doctor) in addition to standard first aid treatment, a Personalised First Aid Action Plan is to be completed by your child's doctor and returned to school (For example asthma and allergies).

Communication

Email is Yarralumla School's preferred method of communication. The school will email home the newsletter, excursion notification, all important correspondence including student reports. Stay connected and informed through our school newsletter which is emailed out fortnightly on a Thursday. Always ensure the school has your correct email address.

Payments to the School

Yarralumla Primary School has an online payment option, using a Westpac service called Quickweb.

You can go to our school website: <http://www.yarralumlaps.act.edu.au/payment> and make a payment to the school's bank account. There will be a link that will redirect you to our Westpac Quickweb site. Payments can be made using a credit/debit card, for any school event, or financial contribution.

EFTPOS is also available at the Front Office.

Newsletter

The newsletter is published fortnightly and includes information about what is currently happening at the school and a list of dates for events. The newsletter is distributed electronically.

Food

Your child will need food for recess, lunchtime and fruit break. Food should be placed in an easily opened lunch box which will be kept in your child's bag. It is useful to have a frozen drink in the lunch box as this provides cooling for the lunch, especially in summer. Your child will also need a drink bottle as students become very thirsty during the day. We encourage children to drink water.

School Uniform

The wearing of school uniform is required at Yarralumla Primary. Exemptions can be granted by the principal in extenuating circumstances. However, the wearing of school uniform readily identifies our students in the community, especially when they are representing their school, and eliminates clothing competitiveness between students. All children are encouraged to wear an appropriate sun smart hat when playing outside. Children not wearing hats are required to stay/play in a designated shaded area of the school. A number of options are available to assist parents/carers who may be experiencing financial difficulties to obtain items of uniform for their children. Please do not hesitate to contact the principal for more information.

Sun Hats and Keeping Safe at All Times

Yarralumla Primary school recommends that children wear broad brimmed sun hats for Terms 1 and 4. Hats are not required to be worn in Terms 2 and 3. We ask all families to be aware and take extra care regarding safety for your child/ren wearing any earrings other than studs, necklaces, jewellery, clothing or hats which have long cords that could possibly get caught on equipment. At YPS we support the safety of all children at school.

Labelling and Lost property

Please make sure that all items of clothing (especially hats and jumpers) and other belongings (drink bottle, lunch box, school bag) are clearly labelled with your child's name and class.

If you find your child is missing clothing items please check in the classroom and in lost property.

Mobile Phones and all Electronic Equipment

All mobile phones and electronic equipment brought to school must be left at the front office in the morning. Phones and any electronic equipment can be collected at 3pm. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Bikes and Scooters

Bikes & scooters are to be left locked at the bike & scooter racks. The school does not accept responsibility for lost or stolen bikes or scooters. By law, a helmet must be worn while riding.

Safe parking around schools

The start of the school year is a particularly busy time in our school carparks and surrounding streets. It's important that we park safely and legally to support the safety of students.

Parking on a footpath, nature strip or roadside verge can:

- Cause safety risks for pedestrians as they are less visible to oncoming cars
- Increase the risk for vulnerable members of our community like children, people who are visually impaired, and those using a wheelchair or pram
- Restrict the line of sight for other road users
- Restrict access for emergency services vehicles.


Parking on nature strips can also damage trees, footpaths, gutters and underground pipes and cables. Please also remember not to park across driveways or block neighbouring residents' properties.

As students return to school remember to also slow down and stick to the 40km/h limit around our schools between 8am and 4pm.

Parking inspectors regularly patrol school zones to support safe parking and keep students safe. If you cannot find a car park in our school car parks, we suggest parking a little further away and walking or riding the rest of the way – it's a quick and easy way to get in some exercise too.

Let's all work together to keep our kids and community safe! More information about travelling safely to school is available on the [Transport ACT website](#).


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.



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.