



YARRALUMLA PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Phone: 6142 3250
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Website: www.yarralumlaps.act.edu.au



22 February 2024 NEWSLETTER NO. 2

DATES TO REMEMBER

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
Wednesday 13 March to Friday 22 March	NAPLAN
Wednesday 20 March	Year 2 Excursion to Canberra Museum and Gallery
Monday 25 March	School Photos
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,

Getting to Know You Interviews

This week we have been holding 'Getting to Know You' interviews in all classrooms. It is an opportunity for families to share important information with the classroom teacher. As always if any concerns arise throughout the term, please contact your child's teacher via email.

Welcome Picnics

Please come along to our three welcome picnics this term. Our P&C's have been planning these events to build opportunities for our community to come together. Preschool Friday week 3. Montessori Friday 23 February. Primary School Friday 1 March.

Building Works

Plumbing work is currently occurring at the front of the school to replace piping that has broken leading to the storm water drain. It is expected to be completed in two weeks. Students can access the front fenced area to park their bikes in the morning.

Year 5 Band

Year 5 band offers have been emailed out to parents for our Instrumental Music Program for 2024/2025. Offers are made based on the student's musical assessment, classroom teacher assessment and student numbers for the program.

School Psychologist

Elisha has returned in 2024 and is working two days a week. She completes a number of roles in supporting our students and families including assessments and counselling. YPS has a referral system for students to

see the school psychologist. If you would like any further information please contact our Deputy Principal Lauren Bruhwiler.

Census

Our February census was conducted with 366 students enrolled at YPS in 2024. Enrolment numbers include: Montessori 38. Preschool 25. Kindergarten 27. Year 1 40. Year 2 42. Year 3 48. Year 4 55. Year 5 44 Year 6 46.

Voluntary Contributions 2024:

Families will shortly receive a letter from the school board regarding voluntary contributions in 2024. In 2024 voluntary contributions will go towards supporting the following areas: ipads to support Seesaw posts (\$5000), chrome books (\$5000), home readers (\$3000), Italian learning resources (\$3000), Early childhood resources (\$3000) total \$19,000.

Assembly

Our whole school assembly will be held next Wednesday at 2:10pm in the school hall. All parents are welcome. We will be presenting our first STAR awards for 2024.

Memory Walk & Jog

If you are looking for an outing this weekend as a family the Memory Walk & Jog is being held this Sunday at Lake Burley Griffin. The Memory Walk and Jog is a national fundraising event to raise awareness and funds for dementia. My mother had an eight-year battle with dementia and I will be jogging in her memory. Not many people know, but dementia is Australia's second-leading cause of death. All money raised will support the work of Dementia Australia and help provide vital support services like counselling, support groups, education, and research to help find a cure. If you have any spare coins you can donate at <https://www.memorywalk.com.au/fundraisers/rohanevans>

Keep Smiling,

Rohan Evans | Principal

P & C News

YPS PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION / ASSOCIAZIONE GENITORI E CITTADINI

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

DANTEDÌ – YPS ITALIAN COMMUNITY PICNIC - FRIDAY 1 MARCH 2024

Big reminder to keep your diaries clear for *Dantedì*, the YPS Italian Community Picnic which will be held on **Friday 1 March**. *Dantedì* is an [international celebration of the Italian language](#) which is held in late March each year around the world.

There will be beautiful Italian music performed by the Dante Alighieri Society. This will be followed by music from local Italian DJ, Joe! There will be delicious food from local food vendors. The kids can run and have fun as the sun sets. Best of all, we will all be together for the first time in 2024.



This photo was taken last year. You can see what a great night it was! Bring your picnic blankets and join us at the most beautiful campus in the ACT.

For planning purposes, the P&C would be grateful if you could please RSVP at the link below by Tuesday 27 March. We will also need a small number of volunteers on the day so please let us know if you can help.



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdB1t8pvXxXey103YA32XoHYRQFzP9eAfHZTKeMb3g2VbwSqw/vjwform?usp=sf_link

If the link doesn't work for you, please just email us at president president@ypspandc.com

UKELELE CLUB

In 2023, Maestra Helen ran a highly successful Ukelele club at lunchtime. With her sad departure from YPS, we are looking for a parent to assist in operating the club. We are lucky to have a parent volunteer who is willing to continue running Ukelele Club if we can get the support of an additional parent (noting the popularity of Ukelele Club last year). Could this be you? We hope that our community can keep Ukelele Club running in 2024.



FIRST P&C MEETING FOR 2024

The first P&C meeting for 2024 was on Monday 19 February. It was great to see some new faces on the night, both in person and virtually.

The highlight of the meeting was, as always, Signor Evans' presentation about the huge range of activities at YPS. He covered staff professional development, literacy programs, psychological support available at YPS, voluntary contributions, student lunchtime activities, assemblies, parent-teacher meetings, the YPS community trip to Italy, and the culturally enriching visit by the Italian Flag Throwers.

We also discussed the P&C's 2024 budget, uniform shop pricing, the quest for new House Names, the P&C event program for 2024, the plans for a *Festa Fantastica* at the end of the year, and how the P&C can improve communication with the YPS community.

NOTICE OF YPS P&C ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 18 MARCH 2024

The P&C's AGM will be on Monday 18 March 2024, 6.30pm in the YPS Staff Room and virtually. A virtual attendance link will be sent out closer to the day.

The 2024 Executive Committee of the P&C must be elected at the AGM. The Executive Committee makes the operational decisions of the P&C, eg. what events to run and how to run them, what fundraisers to conduct, prices at the uniform shop etc. The YPS P&C Constitution requires us to have an Executive Committee comprising a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and at least two (but hopefully more) General Members.



If you are interested in nominating for any of the positions on the P&C, please read about each position here: [Roles of the P&C office bearers](#). Our current Vice President and current Secretary will not be renominating for these roles so we would urge all community members to consider putting their names forward. Full handover will be provided!

YPS would be best served by having a diverse P&C Executive Committee so please consider nominating. If you are not quite ready to be an office bearer, please think about nominating as a General Member of the Executive Committee. General Members bring their ideas and energy to the P&C Executive Committee in its operational decision making and execution.

All nominees will be asked to complete a [Nomination and Declaration Form](#) similar to the one at the link. This is to ensure that the P&C meets its statutory obligations in regard to ensuring candidates are fit to hold office.

INQUIRY INTO LITERACY AND NUMERACY IN ACT PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The ACT government has established this independent inquiry into literacy and numeracy performance in ACT public schools. The [consultation paper](#) was released in December 2023.

Public submissions, including those from parents, carers and students, may be made to the inquiry until midnight **Wednesday 28 February 2024**. If you wish to make a submission, email it to literacynumeracyinquiry@act.gov.au. Alternatively, there is a [survey](#) that you can complete for more structured responses.

Grazie mille! See you all on 1 March at *Dantedi*, our YPS Italian Community Picnic.

Patience Neal
P&C President



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.

Ride or Walk to School (RWTS)

The Ride or Walk to School (RWTS) and It's Your Move Safe Cycle (IYMSC) programs are initiatives of the ACT Government, delivered by Transport and City Services Canberra. These programs provide all ACT schools with access to curriculum aligned resources to teach students how to cycle safely and independently to school to increase active travel rates and improve safety on our roads around schools. The program consists of teacher training (Safe Cycle) and resources, various supporting materials, parental engagement material and dedicated support from the program manager.

The School Safety Program also offers:

- Access to free bike hire delivered to and from school to facilitate program delivery
- Online teacher training programs
- Interactive professional learning workshops for staff
- Lesson plans and resource manuals
- Program merchandise and active travel initiatives
- Downloadable resources and materials
- Dedicated support for program delivery and active travel events.

For more information, visit Transport Canberra City Services School programs or contact us directly at TCCS.SchoolSafety@act.gov.au.

ABC TIGHT Bike Safety Check List



A = AIR

- ✓ Is there air in the tyres?
- ✓ Are the tyres in good condition?

B = BRAKES

- ✓ Are the brakes in good working order?

Note: Bikes are required to have at least a working rear brake or they are not road worthy. It is better to have front and back brakes

B

C = CHAIN

- ✓ Is the chain clean, oiled and firm?
- ✓ Does the drive train and derailleur (if applicable) spin freely?

TIGHT

- ✓ Are the handlebars tight?
- ✓ Are the handlebars straight?
- ✓ Do the wheels and cranks move from side to side?
- ✓ Does everything stay in place with the 10cm drop test?

✗ If a bike does not pass this checklist it is not safe to ride.

Mandatory equipment for cycling activities



Australian approved cycling helmet (Australian standard sticker should be on the inside of the helmet AS/NZS 2063)



Bike that passes the ABC TIGHT test



Fully covered footwear (no thongs, sandals)

✗ If a student does not have the mandatory equipment they cannot ride.



The Cancer Council's SunSmart Schools Program does not recommend wearing hats under helmets. Hats under helmets may interfere with peripheral vision and reduce external noise, two important elements to riding safely. To reduce the risk of over-exposure to harmful UV rays when riding, school bike riding activities and events should be minimised, when possible, between 11am and 3pm during Terms 1 and 4. Always use shade if it is available, wear sensible clothing that covers skin and apply sunscreen to reduce the risk of sun damage when riding. Riders may also consider fitting a UV protective cover to their helmet.

The Three 2s Helmet Check



2 fingers
above eyebrow



2 ear clips
snug under ears



2 fingers
under chin strap

- Check helmet for physical damage eg cracks in shell, worn straps, broken buckles
- A helmet needs to be secure, but not uncomfortable and should fit as follows:
 - Helmet sits flat on head, not tilted back.
 - The rim should sit about '2 finger' widths above your eyebrow.
 - The straps should not be twisted and should form a V just under the ears with the '2 ear clips' snug under the ears.
- The strap should fasten securely under the chin and not hang loose, snugly fit '2 fingers' under strap
- Wobble Wobble Check – place hands on top of helmet and wobble it, shake head. If the helmet moves out of position easily it is not correctly fitted (likely straps are loose or helmet is too big).
- Partner Check – students check each others' helmets.



RIDE or WALK to school



NAPLAN testing will occur in our school between **13 and 25 March 2024** for students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Online NAPLAN tests provide more precise results and are engaging for students. The tests are tailored (or adaptive), which means that each test presents questions that may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses. This helps students remain engaged with the assessment.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

All Year 3 students will continue to complete the writing assessment on paper.

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.

All eligible students are encouraged and supported to participate in NAPLAN testing. Visit www.nap.edu.au to see interactive versions of the test and for more information.

PBL at Yarralumla Primary School

Have you seen our STAR values signage around the school? In each setting there are PBL posters displaying what it looks like to be Safe, a Team Player, an Active Learner and Respectful. Our students are consistently working on demonstrating STAR behaviours while at school and teachers are always keeping an eye out to reward students with E-STARs. This fortnight we had 43 students receiving an E-Star award at COLA – well done to all!



This fortnight our classes have been focusing on showing positive behaviours in two settings – the toilets and in our piazza/corridors. Below is our School Expectation and Behaviour Matrix for these areas:

Be a STAR at Yarralumla!				
	Safe	Team player	Active Learner	Respectful
<i>Piazza/Corridors</i>	Walk quietly Keep to the left	Keep the piazza tidy	Be aware of other's learning Be in the right place at the right time	Appreciate students' work and displays
<i>Toilets</i>	Wash and dry hands Use the bubblers for drinking Report spills	Keep the bathroom clean for others Wait your turn at the bubblers	Use the toilets at break times Wait for friends outside	Use toilet paper and soap appropriately Be considerate of others privacy

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

Early Childhood Setting

It was lovely to see so many preschool families could join us on Friday evening for their welcome picnic. The preschool children have been building connections and friendship over the past fortnight. We are having conversations about I am safe, I am a learner, I am a friend and what that looks like at preschool. The program is on display on the verandah and we would love your thoughts and comments.

In Montessori, we have continued our welcoming of the 1st years who have started their 2 days. The children have been planting perennials in our garden boxes on the verandah, which is a part of our caring for the environment focus. We look forward to seeing our Montessori families this Friday for their welcome BBQ. Also don't forget the YMPA meeting on Wednesday of week 6.

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

School Board

Yarralumla Primary school has two vacancies arising for the school board, one P&C association member and one parent member.

If this is something you are interested in please submit the attached school board election form to the school via email or to the front office no later than 3pm on the 5th of March.



Medical Forms

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 administrated 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.

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.

Community News



Build Your Tomorrow. Today!



**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 for an enrolment form. For all enquiries, please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 9745 1170.