



The Galston Gumnut

Galston Public School Newsletter

Wednesday 18th March 2020

Phone: 9653 2062 Fax: 9653 1980

Email: galston-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Website: www.galston-p.schools.nsw.edu.au



Respect

Responsibility

Personal Best

Week 8, Term 1

Calendar Dates	
Week 8, Term 1	
Tuesday 17 th March	Got It! Parent Workshop 1 – Emotion Coaching 6pm to 7:30pm - Cancelled
Wednesday 18 th March	Peer Support Session 5 – As Normal
Wednesday 18 th March	Year 6 Cake Stall - Cancelled
Friday 20 th March	Harmony Day - Modified
Friday 20 th March	K-6 Assembly 2:05pm Retirement (Julie Cordina and Jean Saxby) - Cancelled
Week 9, Term 1	
Tuesday 24 th March	Got It! Parent Workshop 2 – Emotion Coaching 6pm to 7:30pm - Cancelled
Wednesday 25 th March	Peer Support Session 6 – As Normal
Friday 27 th March	Grandparents Day - Cancelled
Friday 27 th March	K-6 Honour Assembly 2:05pm – Cancelled
Week 10, Term 1	
Monday 30 th March	Principal's Morning Tea – Postponed (New Date TBA)
Wednesday 1 st April	Peer Support Session 7 – As Normal
Friday 3 rd April	GPS Cross Country Carnival – Postponed (New Date TBA)

Note	Due Date
K-6: 2020 School Invoice	OVERDUE

From the Principal

As we enter Week 8, we are certainly experiencing unusual times! Now, more than ever, our focus is on keeping our children calm, safe and happy in their learning. We thank you for your support of each other, our school and community during this stressful time.

World's Greatest Shave, Coloured Hair and Mufti Day

On Thursday 12th March, Max Colley and myself both went under the clippers for a very worthwhile cause! All students K-6 enjoyed a fun spectacle as we experimented with different hairstyles including mullets, rats tails and undercuts before finally finishing up with the shave for a cure. Our students looked amazing in their mufti outfits and colourful hair. To date, Max and the school community have raised a grand total of \$1177.53 in support of the Leukaemia Foundation. Well done!



This is a charity very close to my heart, with my mother falling victim to Acute Myeloid Leukaemia in 2004. It was therefore a pleasure to support Max in his fundraising efforts and I was inspired by the level of support from our teachers dressing up on the day, as well as students and parents in their own outstanding efforts. As you can see, a great day was had by all, with our community of learners proving that there is fun and satisfaction in the caring support of those less fortunate than ourselves.



KM



K-1B



1-2M



2P



3-4B



3-4F



3-4H



5-6G



5-6M

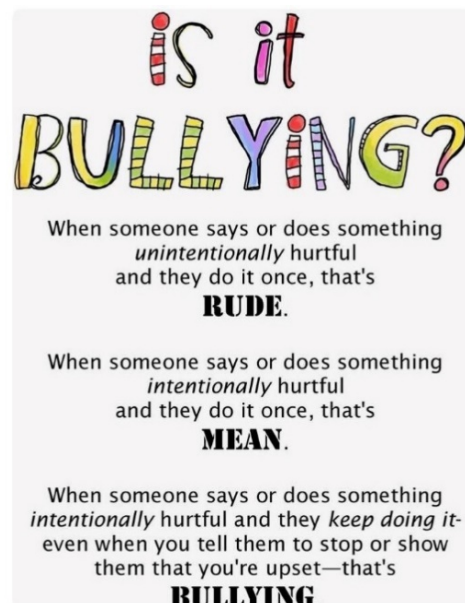


5-6S

Bullying Prevention Acrobatic Show

Friday 13th March was the National Day of Action Against Bullying, and our students were treated to the Bullying Prevention Acrobatic show. This performance was amazing, with students being exposed to a variety of strategies and metalanguage which will be easily transferred to the playground and classroom over the coming weeks and months as they interact with their peers and teachers in the playground/classroom. Our students and teachers were in stitches, heavily engaged with the core messages the performance had to offer.

Key concepts such as bystander behaviour/strength, strategies to use if people are being mean/bullying, as well as identifying bullying situations were covered in a very relevant way for our students. I have included a poster in this week's newsletter, and I would encourage all families to talk not only about this, but also about the lessons learnt from this amazing school performance.



COVID 19 Update

As you are no doubt aware, the World Health Organisation has declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Efforts are now focused on considered actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community and protect those who are likely to experience more severe disease such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.

The Department of Education, in collaboration with NSW Health, has been planning and operating in accordance with its pandemic plan to support the safety and wellbeing of staff and students.

This is part of the government-wide strategy to 'flatten the curve' of confirmed cases so that our health services can meet the needs of those who require care when they need it. From today, NSW DoE schools will be implementing 'social distancing', designed to minimise large gatherings of students and curb the spread of COVID-19.

As such, please note the following for our school for the remainder of Term 1:

Mondays and Fridays	All COLA and Friday assemblies	Cancelled
17 th + 24 th March 6-7:30 pm	Got It! Parent Workshop	Postponed
18 th March	Cake Stall	Cancelled
20 th March	Harmony Day	Going ahead (activities have been modified)
20 th March	Mrs Saxby / Mrs Cordina's Retirement Assembly	Postponed
27 th March	Grandparents Day	Cancelled
27 th March	Honour Assembly	Postponed
30 th March	Principal's Morning Tea	Postponed
3 rd April	Cross Country	Postponed
8 th April	ANZAC Service	Cancelled

9 th April	Easter Hat Parade	Cancelled
9 th April	Easter Raffle	Going ahead (drawn on the day by Mrs Morgan and announced ASAP)
7 th -9 th April	Parent Teacher Interviews	Postponed
29 th April – 1 st May	Stage 3 Camp	Postponed
Ongoing	Class sport and fitness	Going ahead as normal
Ongoing	Parent helpers in classrooms	Going ahead as normal

Over the coming weeks, we will keep you up to date regarding postponed events and their rescheduling.

At this stage, our school will be open as normal, apart from steps we are taking as outlined above. We ask for your assistance by keeping your child at home if he/she is unwell and reinforcing messages about maintaining good hygiene. Teachers are reminding students to regularly wash their hands throughout the day, practise proper coughing etiquette and to avoid touching their faces. This is also being reinforced through visuals in each learning space. Teachers will also be following Department of Education recommendations around ventilation of rooms to create air flow. Children will be having their break times as normal at recess and lunch due to this activity being outdoors within our extensive grounds, allowing for normal routines for students.

The Department of Education advice, as advised by NSW Health, is that if your child has a heavy cold, cough, fever, respiratory or flu-like symptoms, then it is advised that the child remain at home rather than "soldier on". Similarly, if you are returning from overseas, you are required to self-isolate for 14 days prior to returning to school or work.

Parents/care providers of students who present at sick bay with the above-mentioned symptoms will be contacted to collect them immediately.

As Galston PS remains operational on advice from the Department of Education and NSW Health, learning continues to be delivered face to face by teachers in classrooms. Should this situation change, we will investigate options to enable students to continue their learning at home. At this stage for students not attending school we would encourage regular reading, Literacy Planet and use of Maths mental books.

We appreciate your understanding during this time. If you have any concerns or queries, please contact the school via our email at galston-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au or by phone on: 9653 2062. We will advise parents of any changes as new information comes to hand.

NAPLAN 2020 Updates

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a point in time assessment of literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in the annual NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

Our school will be participating in NAPLAN Online between **12 and 22 May 2020**.

Excessive preparation for NAPLAN Online is not recommended. Students do not need to be able to touch type to complete NAPLAN Online as the tests are **not** about keyboard skills (just as the paper test is **not** about handwriting skills). Students can use the [public demonstration site](#) to familiarise themselves with the functionalities of the online assessment platform and the types of questions they will experience in NAPLAN Online.

Please see the *NAPLAN Online – Information for parents and carers* sheet included in this newsletter for further information. If you have any questions about NAPLAN Online, please contact your child's teacher.

Additional resources:

- [Public demonstration site](#)
- [NESA NAPLAN website](#)
- [NAP Parent/carer support page](#)
- [Watch a video that explains NAPLAN Online](#)
- [Watch a video that explains tailored testing](#)

Harmony Day

This Friday 20th March, our students will celebrate Harmony day by wearing traditional dress or orange clothes/accessories. Whilst we have had to modify activities, we are still confident that our students will have a positive and fun-filled day learning about many cultures from around the world, with a focus on inclusion for all. Many thanks to Miss Mifsud and all of our classroom teachers for their preparation of activities for our students!

Finally, while I appreciate that we are currently in a difficult and unprecedented time with the unfolding COVID 19 situation, I thank each of our families for your calm and supportive approach as we aim to maintain our collective focus on the learning and wellbeing of the students of Galston PS. Now, more than ever, our children require this levelled approach for their physical and emotional wellbeing.

Please know that you will be regularly updated with the latest developments as we navigate the weeks and months ahead and as always, the safety of our students and staff will be of the highest importance.

Allan Ison

Peer Support Week 5: The Best Way to Play

During Peer Support this week the children will be looking at how to play in a friendly way in order to maintain friends and build positive relationships. Through various activities children will discover the importance of taking turns and having consistent rules throughout a game.

This week help your child practise these skills by encouraging them to play games with siblings, family or friends.

Claire Sundin, Madelaine Mifsud and Giulia Muscat – Year 6 teachers

News From 5-6G

Over the last few weeks 5-6G have been learning about and replicating the style of the famous artist Keith Haring. We are currently working on our Picasso-inspired artwork.

We continue to improve our times tables skills each week with timed quizzes and this is helping us with all our Maths work. During our English unit on *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* we are focusing on the structure of narratives and the comprehension strategy of making inferences. In History with Mrs Cansdale, we have been learning about the Australian Constitution.



For Harmony Day we are focusing on Malta. We have worked in groups to research interesting facts about this very small country. Did you know...?

- the Maltese word for 'cough' translates to 'chubby'
- there are more than 365 churches in Malta
- Malta has been rated the 48th happiest country
- Malta has been rated as the 8th most popular place to go
- there are over 329 000 vehicles registered each year
- Malta has one of the oldest structures in the world
- Malta has limited supplies of fresh water and relies on desalination plants that turn seawater into fresh water
- the steering wheel in cars is on the left hand side
- two of the main islands include Gozo and Comino
- Malta is small, it is only 36km²
- there are some sunken war ships along the coastline
- Malta is known for its rich history including the siege of Malta in 1565
- the capital city is Valetta

by Flynn K – 5-6G



P&C News

Ongoing Support

Unfortunately, many of our planned activities for the school have been cancelled or postponed; however, the P&C Committee is in full support of any decisions made by the school and Department of Education. Hopefully everything will be back on track soon. At this stage we were not having a P&C Meeting in April due to the school holidays. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 12th May, pending any further decisions by the school.

Colour Run Expression of Interest

Our fundraising coordinator gave us some excellent information regarding holding a Colour Run at the school. We all thought it would be a great activity and good for fundraising. However, to make this work we would need a volunteer coordinator. If you have an interest in putting your hand up for this event could you please let me know. We were tentatively looking at holding it the last day in term 3 or perhaps the first week of term 4.

Kim Alsdorf – P&C President, kim@galstonpandc.org.au

Canteen News

Friday 20th and Monday 23rd March Lunch + Counter Sales

Please lodge orders through Flexischools.com.au by 9.15am.

If your child is absent from school on a lunch ordering day you are able to cancel the order online prior to cut off at 9.15am or call Flexischools on 1300 361 769.

Choc Mint Fudge is now back in stock.

***** We have discontinued Beef Lasagne. We will be trialling Butter Chicken with Rice made by our supplier of Monday meals. It is now available for ordering through Flexischools.*

Grandparents/My Very Important Person Day ordering is no longer available in Flexischools as the day has been cancelled. All orders have been refunded by Flexischools. We will open the Canteen for normal canteen lunch ordering. It is open in Flexischools.

Easter Hat Parade ordering will not go ahead.

Term 2 Roster is now available for sign up

For the information of new parents, this is a great way to make new friends or strengthen new friendships. A trained Supervisor will always be on during Friday. On a Monday you will also have another volunteer with you until you 'learn the ropes'.

Please be aware that the canteen will not be open on a Monday or Friday if we do not have enough volunteers to fill the day's shifts. On Fridays the canteen cannot open without a Supervisor, so unless we have a Supervisor registered we will close the day even if all other shifts are filled. If you would like to train as a Supervisor, please make contact, so that we can ensure you learn the procedures.

Mondays: <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/70a0d4ba8a823a6f58-monday3>

Fridays: <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/70a0d4ba8a823a6f58-friday3>

Louise O'Rourke – Canteen Committee

Uniform Shop

We encourage all parents and carers to order uniforms via Flexischools. Orders will be packed and sent home with students at the start and end of each week. Any enquiries please contact us via uniformshop@galstonpandc.org.au

The remaining uniform shop opening dates for Term 1 2020 will be as follows.

Wednesday 1st April 2.30 - 3.15pm

Wednesday 29th April 2.30 - 3.15pm

Kristie Chambers and Belinda Crofts – Uniform Shop Coordinators

NAPLAN Online - Information for parents and carers

What is NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses the literacy and numeracy skills of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Students participate in NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

NAPLAN provides an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. The tests are just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process – it does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance.

NAPLAN also provides schools and education authorities with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

Moving to NAPLAN Online

Schools in all states and territories are moving from paper tests to online tests. It is expected that all NSW schools will transition to NAPLAN Online by 2021. The move to NAPLAN Online brings new benefits for teachers and students.

What are the benefits of NAPLAN Online?

More precise results with an adaptive design:

Tailored tests adapt to a student's performance and ask questions that match the student's achievement levels.

Better engagement: Research into online assessment indicates that students engage well with electronic tests as the questions are tailored to their achievement levels.

Tailored testing

Tailored testing provides a more precise assessment of students' performance. Students at each year level start with a similar set of questions. Depending on the number of questions they answered correctly, the next set of questions may be more, or less, difficult.

A student's NAPLAN result is based on both the number and difficulty of questions the student answers correctly. A student who completes a more difficult set of questions is more likely to achieve a higher score.

Watch a video (3:06 length) to learn more about tailored testing – <https://youtu.be/oGFseJAM3Ew>

Supporting your child

The best approach for preparing your child for NAPLAN is to encourage your child to do the best they can on the day.

Excessive preparation or the use of coaching providers is not recommended.

Students can use the public demonstration site to familiarise themselves with the functionalities and type of questions they will experience in NAPLAN Online – <https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>

Students' digital skills

The digital skills required to complete NAPLAN Online are skills that students use in every day classroom activities.

Students do not need to be able to touch type to complete the test. The online test is not about keyboard skills (just as the paper test is not about handwriting skills).

Disability adjustments

Adjustments are available to assist a student with disability to participate on the same basis as other students. The adjustments to conditions should reflect the normal support a student receives in classroom assessments.

The first step is to discuss possible adjustments with your child's teacher. Parents need to provide their consent for any adjustments.

Withdrawals and exemptions

You can withdraw your child from NAPLAN tests.

A student may be granted a formal exemption if:

- they have a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the tests, or
- they have recently arrived in Australia and have a non-English speaking background.

Contact your child's school for further information and to complete the parent/carer consent form.

Practice tests

NSW schools participating in NAPLAN Online will participate in practice tests between late March and early April 2020.

The practice test is a trial-run and key preparation activity for NAPLAN Online in May. It is not an assessment of student ability.

Participation in the practice tests is highly beneficial as it provides an opportunity for staff and students to become familiar with the functionalities of the online platform and the test format students will experience in May.

NAPLAN Online 2020 test window

Practice test window: 23 March – 9 April

NAPLAN Online test window: 12 – 22 May

The assessment window for NAPLAN Online is nine days instead of the three days provided for the paper test. This is to give schools flexibility in scheduling and accommodate schools that may have fewer devices.

What if my child was absent on the day of a scheduled test?

Where possible, schools may arrange catch-up tests for individual students who were absent on the day of a scheduled NAPLAN Online test.

Catch-up tests are not permitted after Friday 22 May 2020.

Year 3 Writing test

The Year 3 Writing test is conducted on paper at schools participating in NAPLAN Online. All other Year 3 NAPLAN tests will be online tests.

Privacy

NESA is responsible for the collection of personal information from NSW schools to be used during NAPLAN testing and reporting, in accordance with NSW privacy laws.

Privacy information is available on the NESA website -

<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/about/who-we-are/privacy/naplan-privacy>

Results

Parents receive two reports showing their child's achievements in NAPLAN; the individual student report (ISR) and additional student report (ASR). Both reports should always be interpreted with care. Teachers will have the best insight into a child's educational progress.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance.



NSW Education Standards Authority
NAPLAN team

Phone: 1300 119 556 or 02 9367 8382

Email: naplan.nsw@nesa.nsw.edu.au



Local Honey for Sale

produced by the best bees in Arcadia
Available in 500g tub for \$8.00 *or*
1kg tub for \$15.00

Contact Warren by txt to:
0411 744 914


Warren



learningblocks
Child Care Centre



Our mission

"We aspire to provide the best education and care, and create a nurturing environment for you and your child's individual needs"

What do we offer?

Quality educational program and individual care for your child.

We provide all daily meals and nappies.

Professional and passionate educators



Follow us on
Facebook and Instagram!

Special introductory
offers for new
families!

Our Values

Quality education and care

Genuine partnerships

Collaboration and
contribution

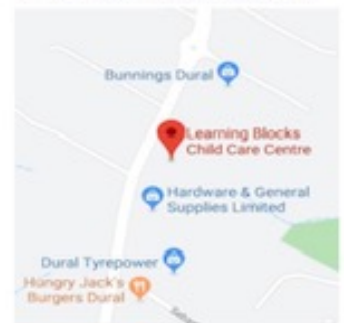
Respectful and reciprocal
relationships



Centre hours

We are open from 7am and
close at 6pm weekdays.
Care for birth to 6 years

242 New Line Road, Dural
9651 7700
learningblocks.com.au



NOW ACCEPTING 2020 ENROLMENTS

Dooral Early Learning Centre

is conveniently on Old Northern Rd in Middle Dural
6 Weeks - 6 Years Long Day Care & Vacation Care
Opening Hours: 7.00am - 6.00pm



- ☑ Comprehensive school readiness program
- ☑ Healthy meals prepared in the centre's kitchen
- ☑ Hat and nappies provided
- ☑ Highly qualified educators
- ☑ Natural play based educational programs

774 OLD NORTHERN ROAD MIDDLE DURAL NSW 2158

☎ 96539966

☎ 0404223060

📘 @DooralEarlyLearningCentre

✉ hello@dooralelc.com.au

🌐 www.dooralelc.com.au