



The Galston Gumnut

Galston Public School Newsletter

Wednesday 25th March 2020

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Respect

Responsibility

Personal Best

Week 9, Term 1

Calendar Dates

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 – Postponed
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 – Postponed
Friday 3 rd April	GPS Cross Country Carnival – Postponed (New Date TBA)

Week 11, Term 1

Monday 6 th April to Wednesday 8 th April	Parent/Teacher Interviews – Postponed (New Date TBA)
Wednesday 8 th April	Anzac Service – Cancelled
Wednesday 8 th April	Peer Support Session 8 – Postponed
Thursday 9 th April	Easter Hat Parade – Cancelled

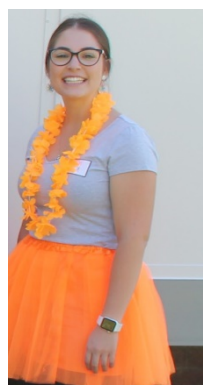
From the Principal

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to the start of Week 9! I would like to begin this week's newsletter by thanking each of the families who have spoken with teachers, our front office or myself directly over the past week to wish our teachers/staff well and to congratulate them on the work they have been doing to support our students in their learning and overall sense of calm at school during a challenging time. Your support is greatly appreciated, and now more than ever, the sense of community at Galston PS is fantastic to witness as we navigate the immediate future.

We are now moving to one delivery mode for those students both at school and at home, supported in their learning by parents/family or teachers, depending on circumstance. As always, the health and safety of our students and staff is the main priority, and we will continue to work together in this new climate, supporting the children with their physical, emotional and academic wellbeing.

Harmony Day – Harmony day was celebrated last Friday 20th March at Galston PS, and I thank all of the teachers, students and parents for taking the time/effort to dress up in orange or wear traditional clothing to celebrate. A real sense of learning about culture was evident in the lead up to the day as well as through the activities undertaken on Friday. Congratulations to Miss Mifsud for all of her organisation and the passion with which she led staff for this event. While we weren't able to celebrate in the fashion we originally planned, everybody rose to the occasion and enjoyed a fantastic celebration of culture and inclusion. Children enjoyed learning some simple language, song, dance and artwork of different cultures, with the chalk drawing proving the highlight of the day!





Canteen Closure Week 9 onwards

From this week, our canteen will be closed until further notice. We thank you for your understanding during this time, and aim to have our canteen operational again as soon as it is safe to do so. Again, many thanks to our tireless volunteers for their work this term, keeping our children fuelled up for class each Monday and Friday!

NAPLAN 2020 Updates

Last week we posted information on the upcoming NAPLAN assessments scheduled for early Term 2. This week we can confirm that these assessments have been cancelled for all students in Years 3 and 5 for 2020 due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. While this will mean we are without a valuable snapshot of student achievement and growth for this year, please rest assured that Galston PS uses a range of standardised and school/class-based assessments to shape the learning programs delivered to meet the needs of our students. As such, they will not be disadvantaged by this cancellation as we prepare for the next phase of our school planning throughout the year ahead.

Parent Feedback – Working Bees

A couple of weeks ago, I asked parents to consider areas of the school that could use a revamp through working bees. While we have beautiful grounds, we can all do with a facelift from time to time! With parents and children spending time together at home working on learning, now is the perfect time to speak with your children (who spend the most time on the premises!) about the areas we might improve through working bees. As we enter Term 2, the P&C, volunteers, staff and myself will create a wish list which we will look to action through ongoing working bees over the next few years.

If you could take the time to jot down some areas and ideas for improvement using the slip below or via the school email at galston-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au, that would be greatly appreciated. Information regarding these working bees will then be distributed as the year progresses.

Working Bee focus areas – Which areas of our school could be improved and how?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

COVID 19 Update

Firstly, thank you again to all of our families for your support and understanding as we continue to manage learning for our students at Galston PS. Your messages of support (both via email and in person) have been greatly appreciated by teachers and support staff during a difficult time. Please see below for a summary of the latest information, which at this stage we are informed will be in place for the remainder of Term 1 (up to and including Thursday 9th April :

1. Parents are strongly encouraged to keep their child/children at home if at all possible.
2. Schools remain open for those in the community who have no alternative but to send their child/children.
3. All students (either at home or at school) will receive one delivery mode of lessons to work through.

Should this information change in the coming days/weeks, we will keep you updated as quickly as possible.

Over the next few days, our teachers will be preparing their delivery mode for each class. We are working to be able to send out this schedule of learning each Thursday afternoon for the week ahead (beginning Thursday 26th March).

Some points to consider as we transition to this new mode of delivery for learning:

- A “learning from home student and parent handbook” will be sent home this week to all families via email. Please take the time to read through this information carefully (with your child where appropriate).
- Students will be completing some work online and some in an exercise book or Maths text book which is sent home. While we don’t expect perfection, there is an expectation that work completed will be the student’s best effort.
- While we appreciate adult supervision, students are encouraged to complete their own work to the best of their ability.
- Feedback is a dish best served warm! If at all possible, it would be ideal if the adult supervising is able to mark work and/or give feedback to students as they complete tasks (eg maths tasks, spelling activities etc). Teachers will have some activities set where they are able to provide this feedback using technology within a short timeframe, however this is not possible for tasks completed in workbooks. Once written/book work is able to be returned when schools resume normal operations, teachers will be sighting this and giving feedback as appropriate.
- Once we have completed physical collection of laptops, workbooks, learning tasks etc this week, we will also send an explanation/schedule of learning to parents via email. Moving forward, this will be sent electronically and families will not be expected to physically collect work from school. Work will be sent out on Thursday afternoon to be completed in the same cycle homework has traditionally been sent (ie Friday to the following Thursday). There is no expectation for work to be completed on weekends.
- Should you need to contact the teacher for any clarification/guidance on your student’s learning, please use the same channels as usual. A phone call to the school office or emailing the school email address is the most appropriate, and will be responded to as quickly as possible by your child’s teacher.
- Learning with your children is supposed to be fun. Please do not feel that every activity needs to be completed every day. It may be appropriate to choose the activities which ignite your child’s imagination, meet their needs in literacy or numeracy or allow you to be creative in how you deliver/complete work. This is one of the great joys of teaching! A good rule of thumb is to complete some reading, writing and maths work each day as a minimum.

In finishing, one of the things I have been speaking with staff about this week is gratitude, and in our community we have much to be thankful for. While we know that there will be long-lasting impact physically, financially and emotionally in our city, country and indeed the world over, we also know that we have much to look forward to as the year progresses and the current crisis hopefully eases over time.

I know that as the Principal of our school, I am grateful for the hard work of our teachers and support staff, the organisation and leadership of our Assistant Principals, and the genuine acknowledgement of this work by our families. As a learning community, our WHY is always our children. We recognise that they are your most prized possession and greatest achievement. In closing this week’s newsletter, I thank each of our families as we work together to continue our children’s growth and development with a sense of calm and support.

Stay safe...

Allan Ison

Peer Support

Peer Support sessions have been cancelled for the remainder of the term. Sessions will resume when schools resume normal operations.

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

Canteen News

Due to the ongoing situation we have closed the Canteen for the remainder of Term 1 and until schools resume normal operations. We will update parents as soon as we are able to regarding the date of re-opening. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause to parents.

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 when schools resume normal operations. Any enquiries please contact us via uniformshop@galstonpandc.org.au

Kristie Chambers and Belinda Crofts – *Uniform Shop Coordinators*

In the interests of our customers, team members and community members, our sausage sizzles and cake stalls have been temporarily suspended until further notice from 18 March 2020.

We are also cancelling all other planned in store activities until further notice, including our Easter and Mother's Day Family Nights and school holiday workshops.

We sincerely apologise for any disappointment; our stores will remain open and we will continue to follow the advice of the Australian and New Zealand Governments relating to this and will continue to take a common-sense approach to the rapidly evolving circumstances.

Community groups who have an upcoming sausage sizzle are encouraged to contact the Activities Organiser at their local Bunnings store for further information.

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contribution

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relationships



Our mission

"We aspire to provide the
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environment for you and
your child's individual needs"



Centre hours

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

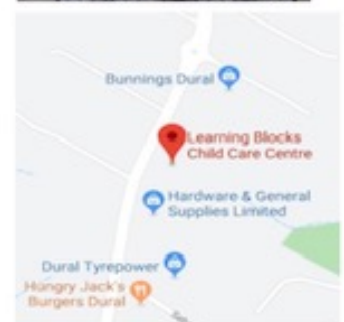
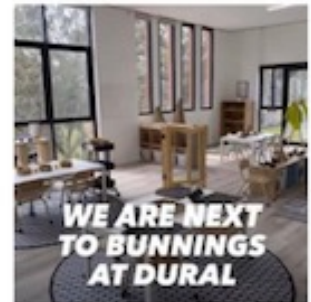
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What do we offer?

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We provide all daily meals
and nappies.

Professional and passionate
educators



NOW ACCEPTING 2020 ENROLMENTS



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is conveniently on Old Northern Rd in Middle Dural

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Opening Hours: 7.00am - 6.00pm

- ✓ Comprehensive school readiness program
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- ✓ Hat and nappies provided
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- ✓ Natural play based educational programs

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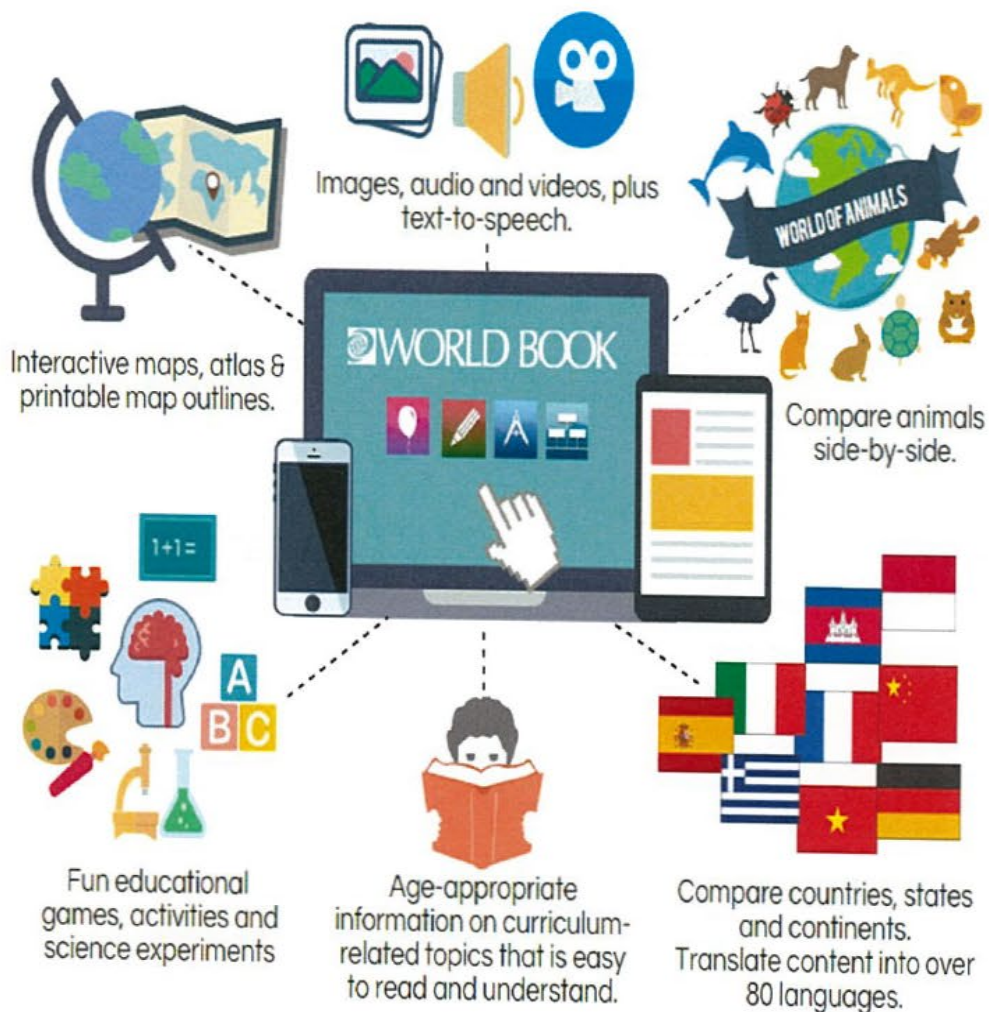


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