

Gidge Gazette

Gidgegannup Primary School Newsletter

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Issue: 1

Principal: Rachelle Lorimer

Deputy Principal: Claire Mansveld

Manager Corporate Services: Melita Staley

Date: 7 March 2025

IMPORTANT DATES:

<i>Wednesday 12 - 21 March</i>	<i>NAPLAN Testing</i>
<i>Monday 17 March</i>	<i>Board Meeting</i>
<i>Friday 21 March</i>	<i>Harmony Day</i>
<i>Thursday 27 March</i>	<i>Room 11 Assembly</i>
<i>Thursday 10 April</i>	<i>ANZAC Service</i>
<i>Friday 11 April</i>	<i>Easter Hat Parade</i>
	<i>Students last day</i>
<i>Monday 28 April</i>	<i>Students commence school</i>



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the 2025 school year! It has been wonderful to see the joy and energy in our classrooms as students settle into their learning routines. On behalf of our school community, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new students and families joining Gidgegannup Primary School this year. We are thrilled to have you as part of our school family.

This year we welcomed Claire Mansveld to the position of Deputy Principal, replacing Simone Harris who has retired.

With several new enrolments, as well as some families moving on, our student numbers have now reached 185. Below is the class structure for this year:

Class Structure 2025

- **Kindy** – Josie Matsen
- **Pre-Primary (Room 1)** – Claire Bannister & Roxanne Jackson
- **Year 1 (Room 2)** – Heather Luke
- **Year 2 (Room 3)** – Darcy Gebbtis
- **Year 2/3 (Room 4)** – Fiona Douglas & Mel Hood
- **Year 3/4 (Room 12)** – Leanne Snelling
- **Year 4 (Room 11)** – Claire Durkin
- **Year 5 (Room 14)** – Sian Kelly
- **Year 6 (Room 13)** – John Taylor

Specialist Subjects

- **Science** – Steph Degens
- **Art** – Cindy Watson
- **Physical Education** – Naomi Holder
- **Music** – Fleur Hockey

Our classroom teachers have already held their class meetings for the year. Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended. These meetings provide an excellent opportunity to learn about what's happening in each classroom, meet your child's teacher, and connect with other parents.

It has been a busy term already and will continue to be so as we have the following events to look forward to:

- **School and HEC Spelling Bee**
- **NAPLAN**
- **On Entry Assessments**
- **Footy Carnivals**
- **Interschool Swimming Carnival**
- **Instrumental Music Program**
- **Harmony Day**
- **Easter Raffle**
- **Easter Hat Parade**
- **ANZAC Service**

This week I was fortunate to go along to the HEC Spelling Bee, where Gidgegannup was represented by the following students:

Junior Team: Aliviah Linthorne and Lincoln Beddis

Senior Team: Jaake de Vos and Ben Hintz

HEC Spelling Bee

These students represented our school very well and huge congratulations go to Aliviah and Lincoln for taking out the top two positions respectively!



Water

We continue to use bottled drinking water at school as our water system undergoes maintenance following the storm. The system component that supports the irrigation and toilets is working fine, and we expect to have the drinking water system back to normal soon. We have plenty of bottled water for staff, students and visitors to the school and parents will be notified when the drinking water is restored.

School Board

The Gidgegannup Primary School Board met on the 17th February. The board reviewed and adjusted the Terms of Reference and Rachelle Lorimer, Principal outlined the school's priorities for the year ahead.

We thanked Simone Harris and Leanne Snelling for their service to the Board as their tenures came to an end and welcomed Claire Bannister and Josie Matsen as new staff representatives.

P&C

The P&C held their Annual General Meeting recently with all executive positions being filled.

Office Bearers are as follows:

President – Tahlia Macri-Andri

Vice President – Kylea McCarthy

Treasurer – Richelle Godfrey

Secretary – Julia Doornbusch

Another ordinary meeting has been scheduled for Monday 10th March at 9am (Week 6) and all are welcome to attend.

Harmony Day

This year, the P&C are supporting the school to celebrate Harmony Day on 21st March. This is a day to celebrate Australia's culturally diverse communities and heritage. Students are invited to wear something orange and bring along a gold coin donation. Donations will be gifted to Dolly's Dream charity, which supports anti-bullying.

Student Councillors

Our 2025 Student Councillors have settled into their new roles and are doing a great job in leading our Gidge Gatherings on a Monday morning, as well as their first assembly last week. This term they are working on developing their public speaking skills to increase their confidence.



Faction Captains

Faction Captains were presented with their badges at the recent assembly. Our new leaders are:

Avon: Zach Bond and Will Tibbertsma

Hampstead: Jaylan Hall and Emilia Bellotti

Forrest: Brock Hunt and Jay Smith

Newcastle: Jace Vellios and Harper Forbes-Rock

They are very excited about their new roles in the school and we know they will be positive role models to their peers.



Kindy Story Time

This term, we see the return of Kindy Story Time on Tuesday mornings in the library, led by Katie Barfield. This important program provides parents with the opportunity to bring along their pre-kindergarten children to participate in a range of activities related to a different theme each week. The sessions help foster early friendships among children while also introducing them to the school environment in a fun and engaging way. With its growing popularity, Kindy Story Time has been increasing in numbers each week, reflecting the positive impact it has on our youngest learners and their families.



Bright Tomorrows

Bright Tomorrows supports parents and caregivers in giving children the best start in life by providing expert advice and evidence-based tools. Focused on early childhood—the fastest period of brain growth—the initiative raises awareness about a baby's developing brain and offers resources like the **Bright Tomorrows app**, which provides personalised tips to help nurture key life skills through everyday activities. This is a free app that provides access to resources and tips to support the development of your young child, and I have attached the flyer to this newsletter.

School Uniform

This term we have focussed upon how we represent our school in our actions and presentation. We are making sure that uniforms are always worn, with long hair tied up and jewellery limited or safely tucked away under shirts and hats worn when outside. As the weather cools, jumpers are starting to be worn, particularly in the mornings. Please ensure that students have a Gidgegannup school jumper that has their name clearly labelled on it as we find that they are often left behind once the day warms up and we want to return any lost items to their rightful owners as soon as possible.

2025 Voluntary Contributions

Thank you to the 24% of families who have paid, we would appreciate payment of 2025 voluntary contributions as soon as possible. The contribution is \$40 per kindergarten student and \$60 per Pre-Primary – Year 6 student. These contributions are an important addition to your child's schooling, as funds collected go towards the purchase of extra classroom resources, or subsidises activities during the year.

Payment can be made to the office or the classroom teacher by cash. Payment envelopes are available from the Office or the classroom teacher. Alternatively, Direct Deposit is available.

Gidgegannup PS

BSB: 633 000

Account: 156300055

Please include your child's surname, room number and the payment reason.

Eg: Citizen, Room 1 Vol Cons (Voluntary Contributions)

We would like to thank families who have already paid contributions for this year.

Updating email, contact and medical details

Please inform the office if there are any changes to medical information, contact details, emergency contact details or email addresses. It is important that these are accurate so that we can get in contact with you if needed.

We look forward to working together to make this a successful and rewarding year for all our students. I am always interested in the views of our parent community, so I invite you to pop in to see me or stop me for a chat around the school any time, as your input as to how we can continue to make GPS even better is valued.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to an exciting Term 1 ahead!

Rachelle Lorimer
Principal

The Deputy's Desk

I would like to start by thanking the staff, students and broader community for making me feel so welcome. I am so happy to be taking on the position of Deputy Principal at Gidgegannup Primary School, I may have only been here for a short time, but I must say the future looks bright, I can clearly see that the students are a fantastic bunch, and the staff are a committed and enthusiastic team.

Let me start off by telling you a little bit about myself. I have been working in education for over 20 years and in that time, I have worked in a variety of locations and positions, from early childhood up to high school: in regional, remote and metropolitan schools. I am passionate about providing quality education to all students and I firmly believe that the school and parents are partners on this journey. As such, I welcome communication from parents. I have an open-door policy so feel free to phone, email me at claire.mansveld@education.wa.edu.au or simply pop in for a chat.

A little bit of housekeeping:

PAT (Progressive Achievement Tests)

You may have heard your children speaking about an online computer test in the last few weeks. The school has just completed PAT testing, a series of NAPLAN like test used to ascertain student's abilities in various areas. These tests are Australian Curriculum aligned, and norm referenced using 240 000 students Australia wide allowing us to check how students are achieving compared to their year level peers and the Curriculum. We will repeat the tests at the middle and end of the year to compare growth. It also allows us to look at the effectiveness of the programs within our school and make data driven changes and decisions.

NAPLAN

Our year 3 and 5 students have NAPLAN in weeks 6 and 7 so they are busy preparing. In class they are preparing and have sat practise tests. This is an opportunity for students to experience the conditions and for the school to identify and iron out any issues.

HEC Spelling Bee

Another exciting event was the first of the Hills Education Community events for the year, the Spelling Bee at Mundaring Primary School, I wish to congratulate all students who competed in both the school and interschool competition. You all showed great dedication and resilience.

Well, that's all from me, I look forward to working with you all and if you see me around, please do come and say hi.

Claire Mansveld

Deputy Principal

Artwork by Room 2



Wear orange this

Harmony

DAY 21

MARCH



**Gold coin donation to the school to be donated to
Dolly's Dream - Anti Bully Charity**

Everyone Belongs

Community News



COME & TRY Hockey

EBHC
EST. 1919

HOOKIN2HOCKEY OPEN SESSION
SAT 3RD MAY 10AM-12PM

ALL LEVELS OF PLAYERS WELCOME AGES 11 & UNDER
JOIN SOME FUN-PACKED SESSIONS TO LEARN HOCKEY BASICS AND MAKE FRIENDS IN A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT.
SIGN UP TODAY AND DISCOVER THE EXCITEMENT OF HOCKEY. REGISTRATION CLOSSES 48 HOURS BEFORE EACH SESSION.

REGISTER HERE:

DAYTON DISTRICT OPEN SPACE
300 ARTHUR ST
DAYTON WA 6055

Hockey WA
Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
City of Swan



COME & TRY Hockey

ELLENBROOK FALCONS
HOCKEY CLUB

ALL AGES OPEN SESSION
SUN 9TH MARCH 10AM-12PM

ALL LEVELS OF PLAYERS WELCOME (FROM KIDS TO ADULTS)
JOIN SOME FUN-PACKED SESSIONS TO LEARN HOCKEY BASICS AND MAKE FRIENDS IN A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT.
SIGN UP TODAY AND DISCOVER THE EXCITEMENT OF HOCKEY. REGISTRATION CLOSSES 48 HOURS BEFORE EACH SESSION.

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Hockey WA
Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
City of Swan

John Forrest Secondary College – Specialist Cricket & Netball Programs

Applications are now open for the **Year 7 2026 Specialist Cricket and Netball Programs** at John Forrest Secondary College.

FORWARD YOUR APPLICATIONS NOW and note our trial dates:

Cricket Trial – Monday 24 March 2025 | 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM | John Forrest Secondary College
Applications close – Monday 17 March 2025

Netball Trial – Tuesday 6 May 2025 | 8:45 AM – 11:00 AM | Morley Sport & Recreation Centre
Applications close – Monday 28 April 2025

Applications received after the due date will still be considered; however, placement in the program will depend on enrolment numbers.

For more information or to download the application form, please visit: [John Forrest Specialist Programs](#).

Best regards

John Forrest Secondary College

Community News



MESSY KIDS CREATE

BACK THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS!!

DISCO GLOW PARTY
11 April

RC Racing Car Day
15 April

more events to come

We do parties too!
CUPCAKE DECORATING PARTIES
SLIME MAKING PARTIES
Contact Bec for more info
0447 764 000

Book your spot here



FOLLOW US

 Messy Kids Create

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