What a terrific week at YGPS...

Yesterday we held our Grandparents and Special persons afternoon. It was wonderful to see so many grandparents, family and special friends visit our school and make connections with our students. There was an atmosphere of happiness and pride as our students interviewed, chatted and played games with their family. We hope all our visitors enjoyed the afternoon.

Last Friday, Jasmine J. entertained us all at assembly by reading her narrative, “The Jungle Girl.” Jasmine created, wrote and illustrated her story and practiced all week so she was fluent and expressive when reading. What an impressive effort Jasmine. I was so impressed with your “never give up attitude and persistence.” I also had the pleasure of listening to Cooper C. read a book to me in my office on my special “Author’s chair.” Matthew came with Cooper. The book Cooper read was about Matthew being brave! So it was quite fitting that Matthew was there with him! It was fabulous reading and I loved listening to Cooper read so confidently.

Many thanks to all our mums who organised and assisted with our delicious Meal Deal yesterday. There were many excited faces as the students chomped into their pizza and ate their delicious snacks. I’m sure everyone enjoyed it. Thanks again!

**FUNRUN! WEDNESDAY 1ST**

Next week is our BIG FUN RUN whole school event. We hope to see you all there cheering your children on. A separate note has also gone home this week with other details about this event. Keep fundraising everyone. You’re doing a fabulous job!

This is a plan for the afternoon.
2:30 – 3:15 (weather permitting: will reschedule if needed)
2:35 Grades 4 / 5 & 5/6 start
2:40 Grades 2/3 & 3/4 next
2:50 Grades 1 / 2 and P/1s
3-6’s running for 30 minutes around school as per Cross Country training course
P-2 running 20 minutes around oval
Teachers and parent helpers will tick card as each child passes through station
Participation certificate for each child
Icy poles at the end for having a go and being so resilient!

**ATTENDANCE AND BEING PUNCTUAL - MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT!**

We all want our students here at Yarra Glen to get a great education and the building blocks for success begins with all students being PUNCTUAL and being at school EVERY DAY. Missing the first half hour of every day means that you miss the vital introduction into the literacy lesson. It’s SO important to be at school. I’ve included a flyer for all families to read about school attendance with this newsletter. Please read this and talk to us if you are having issues with your child attending school every day. We can work together to ensure that students attend school every day.

Have a wonderful weekend,
Stay safe and warm
Kind Regards
Sue Di Giacomo
School Uniform
Is only available online at A PLUS SCHOOLWEAR (Trading as AGS Pty Ltd). All purchases can be delivered directly to the school. Please go to their website www.aplusschoolwear.com.au
Phone (03) 9354 8345.

PLEASE READ
Please make sure you have a Working With Children Check if you are volunteering for any event working with students. You can go online to www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au to obtain the check. Please furnish the Working With Children Check card at our school office, so we can place your name on our current school register.

CROSS COUNTRY
Congratulations to all of our students who participated in the Cross Country Run last Friday. The following students have made it to Division which is the next level: Bella, Eve, Dyan J, Ruby, Holly, Tyla, Jacob, Lianah, Rachel, Aiden, Charli, Jordan, Sienna, Dylan S, Oscar, Zoe, Ethan, Taylah, Liam, Haram, and Molly. (Carly Gilchrist, Charlotte McMurray and Hunter Grenfell who were in the top ten but are not old enough to compete. Unfortunately, an error was made by the School responsible for organizing the Cross Country Event)
Each child needs a student ID number. This will be given to students before the event at division.

AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT
The Jungle girl
On a beautiful day a beautiful girl lived in a lovely jungle. She was lonely but a monkey swung down. He said “What is wrong?” “I don’t have any friends” said the girl and so the monkey said “what is your name?” “Siena” she said. “Do you want to be friends?” said the monkey. “Yes, yes” she said. “I would love that” said the girl. When it was dark and they were sleeping, two eyes were glowing in the dark. The girl woke up. She was terrified of the eyes so she said “Wake up! Wake up!” The eyes came closer. “Run!” she said. They ran and ran and ran until “stop” she said, “a cave”. They were safe but the girl said “I have to go home”. Oooooo (Monkey noises). She grabbed the monkey and ran into the village. “Hey, they came back!” said the men. So they lived happily ever after. By Jasmine J
Grade 4/5L have had a great start to Term 2! We have been very busy with our History component, where we are learning about first contact and colonisation in Australia, British colonies and the waves of immigration over time. The students have really embraced the personal and historical aspects of the unit, in particular the impact that British colonisation had on the indigenous people.

We have also looked at persuasive writing, where many students have displayed a natural talent. One task was to write a letter to Ms. Di Giacomo regarding technology in the classroom.

26 April 2016

Ms. Di Giacomo
Principal
Yarra Glen Primary School
Symonds St
Yarra Glen VIC 3775

To Ms. Di Giacomo,

I believe that everyone from grade 3-6 in this school should have a tablet each to use in their classes.

Firstly, we should get them because in the long run we will save money because of the paper we will not use for photocopying, etc.

Secondly, if we have tablets for each of the students, the work will be way more engaging.

Lastly, if we have them, more people will want to come to this school because we will be able to offer great an ICT learning program.

Would you like to miss out on seeing students do well in technology?

Kind regards,
Jordan
Maths-wise, we have been working extremely hard collecting data and representing it in graph form. Students worked in groups to come up with a topic and options to survey students in a chosen grade. They then collated the results and presented this in bar graph form. This allowed students to not only use their mathematical and speaking/listening skills, but also utilise what they have learned regarding ICT.
CROSSCOUNTRY
On the 20th of May the Grades 3-6 went to Cross Country at Margaret Louise Reserve.
I had butterflies in my stomach because I was racing against six different schools. It was so much fun because I trained really hard felt comfortable running. It was also so really fun watching my friends cross the finish line.
I am really happy and proud of myself because I ended up coming 3rd. I am so pumped to run around the racecourse and hopefully this time get through to the third round.
By Eve

I WANNA BE A POP STAR
I wanna play a rock guitar
I wanna sing most nights
I wanna see my name in lights
I wanna be super stars I like
I wanna ride my favourite motor bike

I WANNA BE A POP STAR
I wanna drive a sporty car
I wanna see happy faces
I wanna win lots of running races
I wanna be the best I can be
I just wanna be me
I wanna travel really far

I WANNA BE A POP STAR
I see Chinese men working to provide a safe and useful shelter so that they can focus on digging gold.

I think that they are all working really hard so that they can get money to give it to their families back in China.

I wonder if they all have families or if some of them are doing it for their own fortune.

If I were one of the men I would hope that I would get enough money to provide for myself and my family.

If I could have been alive back then I would have tried to help the Chinese men get equal rights.

Jacob

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Australian Goldrush

In the 1900s Australia became a place to come and get gold. The first person to find gold was Edward Hargraves. He found the first spec of gold at Bathurst. Life on the goldfields was hard. The diggers had to sleep in shacks and tents. They went hunting and cooked foods like rabbits and deer. The games they played were noughts and crosses, skipping, quoits and shove the half penny.

Where the immigrants came from

The immigrants came from all around the globe to find gold.

By Josh & Max
In primary school, some students miss on average 3 weeks of school per year. That's half a year of school by the end of year 6.

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important
We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early
Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do
The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

"Day off" – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

• Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx.