



YARRA GILEN
Primary School

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Term 1, 2017
Week 8 of 9
Weeks

Newsletter: March 23rd 2017

This week at YGPS...

It's been another terrific week at YGPS with many students making us proud with their learning and their respectful behaviour. We are very close to achieving our PERRI challenge for the term. Keep up the great work everyone and I'm sure with everyone working together as a team, we will achieve our challenge. We will announce the result in the last week of term and the students' reward is a free dress day on the last day of Term 1. Keep persisting everyone.

I'd like to announce our School Council members for 2017.

Congratulations and welcome to Ema Ashmore, Taryn Mason, Clint Borthwick, Sarah Fuhrmann, Greg Chrisp and Nicole Franklin. Also welcome and congratulations to Kath Pitt and Patricia Scott as DET School Council members. We are all looking forward to a busy yet productive year. Thank you to all members for making this commitment. This is an important partnership between home and school.

Speaking of partnerships and thinking of our students' education, this article may be of interest to you. Ms Lyons forwarded it to me and I felt that it may be of interest to our families. I'm often asked my thoughts in regards to whether handwriting should still be taught. Take some time to read it. I believe it is still a vital part of learning for our future generation.

Who Needs Handwriting?

Students live in a digital world. When everything from texting friends to writing essays can be done using a touchscreen or keyboard, the relevance of handwriting is in question. There's no doubt that being able to jot down a legible To Do list at the start of the school day is handy, but research also suggests that there is a strong link between handwriting and the learning process.

Here are three ways handwriting can benefit students' learning, with tips for incorporating handwriting practice into your weekly routine.

Develop motor control

Proficiency in fine motor skills in early childhood is fundamental to the development of students' literacy and numeracy skills at school. Along with play-based activities such as using building blocks and playing ball games, handwriting is a great way to develop motor control.

Try including these activities for developing fine motor skills at home:

For the lower years, encourage finger tracing or sweeping movements in the air.

For the upper years, students can use art to perfect their fine motor skills, including the slants, slopes and loops needed for letter formation. Students won't even realise they're practising handwriting as they create an art masterpiece.

Improve reading ability

One of the first steps to reading is recognising the letters and letter combinations that form words. Studies suggest that the act of handwriting (rather than typing) creates an imprint of each letter in a part of the brain that is related to visual recognition. This indicates that there is a strong link between handwriting and learning to read.

· A great way to boost your students' reading skills is to pair handwriting practice with spelling practice. Homework is a great tool to practise this.

Boost memory and understanding

The results of a recent study found that students who wrote notes with a pen and paper were much better at recalling facts and understanding the concepts than students who used a keyboard.

The link between handwriting, memory and understanding makes a strong case for giving your child meaningful handwriting activities rather than the simple practice and drill of letter formation.

· Australian Curriculum-themed activities can include asking students to label their life cycle diagram, completing the missing words in a poem or writing key facts from a passage about tsunamis.

For more information see

<http://www.fireflyeducation.com.au/pd/article/who-needs-handwriting>

Have a happy and safe weekend. See you all next week at The Twilight Sports on Thursday at 4pm on our school oval...Get your cheering voices ready!

Kind Regards,
Sue Di Giacomo



Persistence
Encouragement
Resilience
Respect
Inclusiveness

Calendar

Ball Sports 9.30—11.00	28/3
Twilight Sports Late start	30/3
Curriculum Day	31/5
Curriculum Day	27/7

Curriculum
Day
18th April
First Day of
Term 1
Students
Resume for
Term 2
19th April

Grade	Teacher	Award	Student
Group 3	Ms Mottau	Student of the Week	Celeste & Griffin
Group 4	Mrs Owen	Student of the Week	Lily & Harry
Group 5	Mrs Ryan	Student of the Week	Xavier, Liam & Ben
Group 6	Ms Lyons	Student of the Week	Isabella & Sienna
Group 7	Mrs Pitt	Student of the Week	Grade 6

Community Owned Solar Energy Workshop

Saturday 25 March 2017
1:00pm-4:30pm Yarra Glen
Memorial Hall
for more info contact
Jessica Adams

Community Development Officer
Tuesday and Thursday
03 9294 6866 / 0419 569 490

j.adams@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

Lost Watches

There are two watches at the office. If you have lost a watch please come and see if we have it.



YOU ARE TO BE COMMENDED...PIPER

A special mention goes to Piper for her amazing resilience and persistence. Piper has been growing her hair since she was three and half years old. It hasn't been just because she likes long hair. In fact, she has sat through many knots being brushed out and being very patient about it all. Piper has been growing her hair so she can donate her lovely locks to the Variety Club charity so her hair can help other people "feel good."

At our last assembly this term, Piper will be having her hair cut into a short bob and her beautiful hair will go to a very worthy cause!

Piper, what an awesome gesture! Your kindness will go a long way for many others to share.

WELL DONE PIPER!

YOU ARE TO BE COMMENDED...AIDEN

Another special mention goes to Aiden Watson for shaving his hair and raising an incredible amount of money for "Shave For a Cure" This was a kind and selfless gesture Aiden.

WELL DONE TO YOU!



YGPS students enjoying their time with the Yarra Glen Jets!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are running a Bunnings BBQ on 7th May. If you can help out it would be very much appreciated. More information next week.

On Thursday 11th May, 2017 **Lilydale High School** will be conducting their annual Information Night for parents and guardians of Grade 6 students. The evening will begin at 7.00 pm in the school hall.