

THE GIRRAWEEEN GAZETTE

Term 1 Week 11



Term 2 Dates:

Tuesday 30th April to Friday 5th July

To keep up to date with our school community calendar, you can view our School Bytes Calendar.

[School Bytes Calendar](#)

Term 2 Public Holidays

Monday 10th June

Principals Report

As we conclude term 1, I can reflect on the fast-paced term that has just flown by. It only seems like a few days ago that 120 eager new Kindergarten students began their learning journey at our school. The other 1050 students supported and nurtured Kindy throughout the first few weeks of their schooling.

As parents you would have seen the growth in your child's confidence, academic performance, and attendance across all grades K-6. The exceptional teachers and admin staff at our school have supported every child to achieve their best every day.

Our students have seen the cranes lift out 5 of our school buildings, been part of weekly team building and resilience lessons with Motiv8 sports, participate in sporting gala days and carnivals and even had the chance to make an Easter Hat.



Principals Report



Term 2 will also be actioned packed. We will see many grades go out on excursions, Year 5 have been invited to a Zoo Snooze, and we have many exciting learning opportunities prepared for our school.

Next term we also welcome back Assistant Principal, Mr Mitch Hutchinson to our school. He will be teaching Year 1 for the remainder of the year.

We also welcome Mr Sam Tuivaiti, who is helping out Mr Simon with the grounds. Sam comes to us from the Parramatta Eels Rugby League Club well-being initiative. We are so proud to have Sam and Mr Jai Camillerri work with our school and be mentors for our students.



(Pictures of Sam and Jai in action for the eels)

I would like to take the opportunity to also welcome our new P&C committee for 2024 lead by President Jegan. At the AGM we had the opportunity to thank many members for their service, including Thiru the outgoing president. Keep an eye out for notifications of P&C meetings. This is just one way of supporting our school.

I also wish to thank McGraths Real Estate Agent "Danny" and team Nayak for their kind support and donation of an Ipad for our attendance draw and Easter competition. We appreciate their ongoing support.

Thank you also to Good360 Australia who were able to provide brand new shoes for many of our students. We look forward to many more partnerships with such fantastic groups.



Principals Report

We are thrilled to announce the addition of 38 brand new permanent general learning spaces and 3 new support learning hubs, and the extension of the library and hall buildings. In addition to the new facilities, 6 general learning spaces and amenities have been refurbished to ensure high quality teaching to meet our student's continued growth.

We strongly encourage our school community to continue or start walking to school either independently or with parental supervision. We hope walking together more around our lovely neighbourhood can further uplift student health and well-being.

Finally, I am able to share some exciting news that we will be hosting 20 students from Wuyi Hushan Primary School in China during August. We were overwhelmed that they requested an international visit to our school and looking forward to sharing many cultures, traditions and successes that make Girraween P.S so great.

Have a great break. Stay safe.

Mrs Warner
Principal





A Message from the Deputy Principals

K - 2 Term 1

What a great start to 2024! Kindergarten students have done an exceptional job at settling into Girraween Public School. Not only have they learned all about big school they have started their learning journey with enthusiasm.

Kindergarten, Year 1 and 2 have also been successful in implementing Door to Floor in 60 seconds. This ensures we are starting our learning from 9:00am. As a result, we are ensuring our students have a strong foundation in reading and writing.

Thank you to the parents that have paid \$20 to access Wushka. This program is a valuable resource to support and continue to develop our students' reading skills. If you have not paid yet, please pay through School Bytes.



I'm very excited to continue to see the growth in our K-2 students and look forward to Term 2.

Ms Col

Deputy Principal K-2

Stage 2

OC Year 5 entry in 2025:

Applications are open from 4 April to 20 May 2024

What are opportunity classes? Opportunity classes are one of the ways the NSW Department of Education supports high potential and gifted students.

The classes help students learn by:

- grouping them with other gifted students
- using specialised teaching methods so students can learn concepts quicker and in more detail.
- supporting their wellbeing needs. Most students in opportunity classes enjoy learning with peers who have similar abilities and interests. Opportunity classes are not zoned.



A Message from the Deputy Principals

Where are they located? There are 86 primary schools with Year 5 opportunity classes in NSW each year.

- 54 schools are located in metropolitan Sydney
- 31 schools are located in rural or regional centres
- a virtual class, Aurora College, for rural and remote students is available in over 600 authorised host schools.

Students successfully placed attend the opportunity class full time in Years 5 and 6 at the relevant public school. In most cases, students who have accepted a place in an opportunity class will leave their current school to attend the school with the opportunity class.

Should you apply? If your child learns with greater ease and speed than their classmates, they may benefit from enrolment in an Opportunity Class. High potential and gifted children need to be challenged so they remain engaged with their education.

Equity provisions

The Equity Placement Model helps to make access to opportunity classes fairer for the following under-represented groups:

- students from low socio-educational advantage backgrounds
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students
- students from rural and remote locations
- students with disability.

The Equity Placement Model holds up to 20% of places at each school for students from these groups to support an increase in their participation. Students from these groups may be considered for equity placement if their test performance is within 10% of general applicants for each school.

Ready to apply? Apply online

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/choosing-a-school-setting/selective-high-schools/choosing-a-school/opportunity-classes>

If you would like to discuss whether you think you should apply, please contact your child's teacher.

Mrs Needham

Deputy Principal Stage 2

A Message from the Deputy Principals

Stage 3

Mentoring program

In term 1, all Stage 3 students were introduced to Olympic athletes Nathan and Joshua Katz who represent Australia in Judo. The Katz brothers competed at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games and are seeking qualification for this year's Paris Olympics. Nathan and Joshua discussed goal setting and what it takes to achieve set goals.

Next term Nathan and Joshua will continue a mentoring program with selected Year 6 students to build leadership skills in preparation for High School.



Year 5 and Year 6 Camps

Recently information was sent home via School Bytes regarding upcoming opportunities for Year 5 and Year 6 students to attend school camp. In term 2, Year 5 will be attending an overnight excursion to Taronga Zoo. This 'Roar and Snore' experience will be a great opportunity for students to spend the night at Taronga Zoo. In term 3, Year 6 students will be attending The Great Aussie Bush Camp at Kincumber for 3 days. Please complete the Expression of Interest form on School Bytes to indicate your child's intention to attend.

Mr McClifty

Deputy Principal Stage 3



Administration News

School Office

Opening Hours - 8:30am - 3:15pm

Telephone - 02 9631 3650

Email - girraween-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Entering the School Grounds

Parents who must enter the school grounds during school hours, are required to report directly to the school office first. All visitors must sign in and wear a clearly visible visitor's pass whilst on the school grounds. This includes when parents need to sign their children out and collect them from class early.

Teacher Communication

During school hours parents will not be able to communicate with classroom teachers face to face as their priority and focus is on teaching.

If you wish to communicate with your child's classroom teacher, this can be done via an email to the school. The teacher will then contact you at their earliest availability.

Administration Office

Our Administration office has now been relocated to opposite the staff room. Please feel free to come and see our friendly Admin team for any enquiries.



Uniform Shop

Our on-site school uniform shop is open to families of Girraween Public School at the following days and times:

Tuesdays - 8:30am-10:00am

Thursdays - 2:00pm-3:30pm

[Click here for information about how to order.](#)

For any issues or enquiries:

Tel: 1300 553 832

info@exceluniforms.com.au

Canteen

Save time with our online canteen! Sign into our online canteen and place your order.

[Register or sign into your account here.](#)

For any issues or enquiries:

Tel: 1300 796 190

help@munchmonitor.com

Camp Australia

We are proud to partner with Camp Australia to provide our Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) program.

[Click here to find out more about Camp Australia's program at our school.](#)

External Services

Cool Kids Music Co

Join in on the fun with our small group music lessons right here at GPS.

[Find out more about Cool Kids Music Co here!](#)

Australian Academy of Robotics & Stem

Join in on the fun with our small group music lessons right here at GPS.

[Find out more about Australian Academy of Robotics and Stem](#)



NSW Department of Education



Every Day Matters



When it comes to attending school, every day matters

If your child misses as little as **1 day per fortnight**, they will miss **4 weeks of school per year**, which adds up to over **1 year missed over their school life.**



Scan the QR code to learn more

Make sure your child doesn't miss out on the important things like:



Learning



Strengthening friendships



Build skills through fun



Attendance Guidelines

Late Arrival to School:

Students are required to be at school and prepared for learning by 9.00am. If a student arrives late for any reason, they must first obtain a late note from the office before joining their class.

Leaving School Early:

To sign out your child early, parents should visit the office to receive an early slip. It is advisable to arrange pick-up times outside of break periods. Parents are not allowed to enter the school grounds during breaks and are requested to collect their child at an appropriate time.

Extended Absence:

While traveling during school holidays is encouraged, if travel during the term is essential and your child will be absent for over 10 school days, please complete an [**Application for Extended Leave Form**](#) prior to the travel dates.

A copy of your travel itinerary and the completed form must be submitted to the administration office for Principal review.

Planned Absence:

For absences spanning from a full day to up to 10 days, please use School Bytes through the attendance tab for submission.

Absence SMS:

If your child is absent or late to school, you will receive an sms. This sms will link you to School Bytes where you can action any Unexplained Absences by selecting respond. Any absence not explained after 7 days will be recorded as an unjustified absence.

Moving Schools

For families that will be leaving Girraween Public School, a Student Exit form must be completed prior to your departure.

A confirmation of enrolment from the child's new school will be required to complete exit formalities.

Complete the form below to notify the school of your intention to leave.

[**Student Exit Form**](#)

School Bytes

From 2024, we will be using a new school management system called School Bytes.

School Bytes provides a parent portal to help us communicate with you. We strongly recommend that you bookmark this page in your browser.

[**Learn More**](#) 

Quick Links

- [**Access the parent portal**](#)
- [**Set up your parent portal**](#)
- [**Manage student absences**](#)
- [**School Bytes parent guides**](#)



School Bytes

This year we have transitioned to School Bytes for our school administration system and parent portal.

School Bytes provides a parent portal to help your school communicate with you.

Our school may use the parent portal for various things, including online permission notes, attendance, and payments, which can be accessed via a secure link. The School Bytes parent portal enables you to view all your children in one portal and process payments for multiple siblings in one transaction.

IMPORTANT: To ensure that the registration process works smoothly and you can link your account to your child(ren), make sure that you use the same email address that you have provided to the school or if using a different email address, an SMS verification code will be sent to the mobile phone number on record for you at the school.

In the very fast paced world we live in, we understand the need for you, our parents/carers to have the flexibility to make payments outside of school hours and furthermore, the ability to receive and respond to communication at a time that best suits your needs.

Changes you can expect

- The students Statement of Account and payment reminders will be sent directly to parents/caregivers via email.
- Emails will be sent to you from noreply@mail.schoolbytes.education.
- The student's Statement of Account email will include the make a payment button that will take you to the school's online payment portal.
- If an activity involves a cost, the make a payment button will allow you to pay securely, quickly and easily via credit or debit card after granting permission (Visa and Mastercard only).
- Online forms including permission notes, will be sent to you directly via School Bytes with a link enclosed. Select the link to open the secure online form.
- The online form will have information about the activity with a section for a digital signature (either with a mouse or your finger) prior to submitting.

The graphic is a dark blue rectangular banner for the 'School Bytes Parent App'. At the top left is the 'School Bytes' logo, which consists of a stylized 'S' and 'B' inside a circle. To the right of the logo, the text 'School Bytes' is written in a white sans-serif font. Below this, the words 'Parent App' are written in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. Underneath 'Parent App', the text 'Available now!' is written in a smaller, light blue sans-serif font. Below that, in a very small white font, it says 'Download on the App Store or Google Play by clicking the image below.' The central part of the graphic features a white smartphone displaying the app's interface. Surrounding the phone are several circular icons connected by thin white lines, representing various app features: a calendar, a document with a checkmark, a speech bubble, a notification bell, a group of people, and a credit card. At the bottom left of the graphic, there is a white box with the heading 'Key Features' in bold. Below this heading is a list of five bullet points in white text: 'Get real time push notifications from your school', 'Stay signed in and save your card for secure payments for fees and excursions', 'Give consent, sign forms and respond to attendance alerts', and 'View the school calendar and news'. At the bottom right of the graphic, there are two buttons: one for the 'App Store' and one for 'Google Play', both in white text on dark blue backgrounds.

Kindergarten



Kindergarten have had a fabulous time participating in the Harmony Day and Easter Hat Competition events. Lots of dressing up and smiles all around.

The teachers are very proud of their achievements this term. The students have worked very hard and have earned their well deserved holiday coming up.



The Kindergarten Teachers wish all their students and families a wonderful and restful two week break. We look forward to seeing you in Term 2.

Miss Williams
Assistant Principal Kindergarten



Year 1

Year 1 have had a fantastic Term 1.

Students have done a great job making new friends and learning all their new class rules and routines.

This term, teachers have introduced students to our morning 60 seconds "door to floor" routine. Students have done a good job at transitioning from the playground into the classroom, ready to begin each day at 9.01 am with our phonics and reading lessons.

Year 1 students have been learning lots about writing accurate sentences that contain a noun, verb and preposition.

During mathematics lessons, students have been learning all about the different number combinations that make 10 and 20. We have also been looking at measuring the length and area of a 2D shapes, as well as the volume and mass of a 3D object.

Motiv8 sport lessons have also been a huge hit with our Year 1 students! A reminder that our sport day is every Tuesday. Students are to wear their full sport uniform each Tuesday.

Finally, we have also had a great time celebrating Harmony Day! There was a sea of orange across all of Year 1 as well learned about the countries we come from and our wonderful country, Australia!

Mr Vitnell

Assistant Principal Year 1



Year 2

Year 2 have had a very busy, exciting end to term 1 with Harmony Day and our Easter Fun Day. We look forward to a TERRIFIC term 2 in Year 2!



Miss Khoury
Assistant Principal Year 2

Stage 2

Year 3 and 4 have had a term full of great learning and celebrated all their hard work with some Easter fun. Our students loved showing their wonderful creations to their peers and teachers. We hope they enjoy a well-earned holiday break and the Stage 2 teachers look forward to welcoming everyone back in term 2.

Year 3



Stage 2

Year 4



Mrs Dawes and Miss Bakkar
Assistant Principals Year 3 and Year 4

Year 5

Year 5 is enjoying our new spelling program. We are examining the four areas of spelling knowledge: Phonological, Visual, Morphemic and Etymological.

Year 5 has loved extending our knowledge and learning new, and different, ways to spell!

Mrs Newall

Assistant Principal Year 5

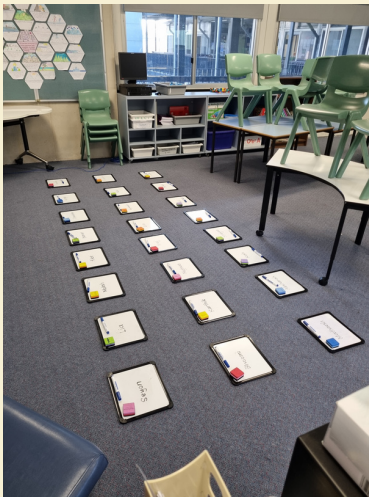
Phonological Knowledge
How words sound

Visual Knowledge
How words look

Morphemic Knowledge
What words mean and how they change

Etymological Knowledge
Where words come from

The Fantastic Four



Year 6

On the 4th of March 2024 our School's Prefect Body attended the National Young Leaders Day. Many schools from all over NSW attended the event at ICC (The International Convention Center). On that day many high-profile Australians spoke about their leadership journeys giving us a good insight on what made them who they are.

On the day there were five amazing speakers that talked through their journeys such as Anastasia Woolmer a 2-time Australian memory champion, Bryson Klein a multiple time ninja warrior champion, Eva Amores and Matt Cosgrove authors of *The Worst Week Ever* and Stephen O'Keefe Australian Test Cricket player and Sydney sixers player. One of our favorite experiences was getting to wear the Australian Test Cricket Team Cap, to which McDonalds came a close second.

This was an eye-opening experience as we got to learn lots from these 5 aspiring people who have now impacted the way we lead and inspire others. We also enjoyed learning about how we can be resilient and bounce back in tough situations during our leadership journey and how we can help make our school a better place.

The main message our leadership team were inspired by, was to not think about the way others think of you, to never give up your dreams and always put others first. To conclude, this experience was fun and enjoyable, and we hoped you enjoyed us sharing this with you.

Written by Aanya 6M and Aradhya 6T

Mrs Scerri

Assistant Principal Year 6



Clean Up Australia Day

Clean Up Australia Day is held on Sunday 3 March. Throughout Week 5, students participated in Clean Up Australia by helping tidy up our school. Over a million Australians step up to clean up every year, donating their time to improve the environment. Thanks to student contributions, our school already looks so much cleaner!



SRC teachers



Harmony Day



On Thursday 21 March, Girraween Public School celebrated Harmony Day. Harmony Day is the celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Thank you to Wentworthville Tamil Study Centre for their generous donation of oranges for the event.



Community Language and Cultural Awareness

On Tuesday 26 March, Year 3 Community Language and Cultural Awareness classes made fairy bread. This activity was linked to the unit "Food" that students have learnt during term 1.

On Tuesday 26 March we made Fairy Bread. Firstly, all of the Tamil and Cultural Awareness students met together at the hall. Next, we set up everything on the tables. Mrs Needham started selecting 10 students to line up to make fairy bread. After that, the 10 students went to Miss Sri and got a slice of bread. Then they went to the butter station and put butter on their bread. After that, they went to the sprinkle station. Finally, students found a quiet spot to enjoy their fairy bread. The process kept repeating until everyone had their slice. Everyone enjoyed their fairy bread.

By Theo 3T



Year 3 Telugu - Cooking

Year 3 Telugu Community Language students made nuvula ladus and they were delicious. The ingredients they used included:

- Jagaree
- Shredded Coconut
- Sesami Seeds

Some of the equipment that they used included:

- bowls
- spoons
- paper plates.





Year 3 Hindi - Cooking

Year 3 Hindi Community Language students immersed in a cooking lesson. They learnt to follow a recipe while making cultural food.



HOLI

Hindi Community Language students learnt about the festival of colours, HOLI. Students created handmade ecards.



Year 6 Fundraiser - Fan Day!

Year 6 held their first fundraiser for the year and raised a whopping **\$3950** for their milestone events. They sold a total of **790 tickets** for the event!

Students had the opportunity to support their sports team by wearing a jersey and catching a few balls on the Sydney Thunder inflatable!



The day was absolutely amazing, and my favorite part was definitely the inflatable activity, even though I wasn't able to catch a ball. Despite that, it was such a fun and exciting experience that I will always remember. - Year 6 student

We are thankful to Cricket NSW for supporting us with our fundraiser. Here our school captains gave Matthew Barwick, a little gift of gratitude for spending the day with us.



Miss Mathuru
Fan Day Co-ordinator

"Winner"



The winner for the 'best coach ever' plaque is Myra Singh from 4Y.



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 for K(Prep) - Grade 6 children.

At Motiv8sports there is a reason why the word motiv8 comes before the word
 sports. The sports we perform are really important but our primary focus is creating
 a sports dreamland where children are not only safe but motiv8ted by our team of energetic
 coaches to get in and have a go. Sportsmanship, building resilience, forming new friendships and learning about
 teamwork is all part of the Motiv8sports experience.

Over the course of our event children will receive a free jersey and be placed in age appropriate groups of 18-22.
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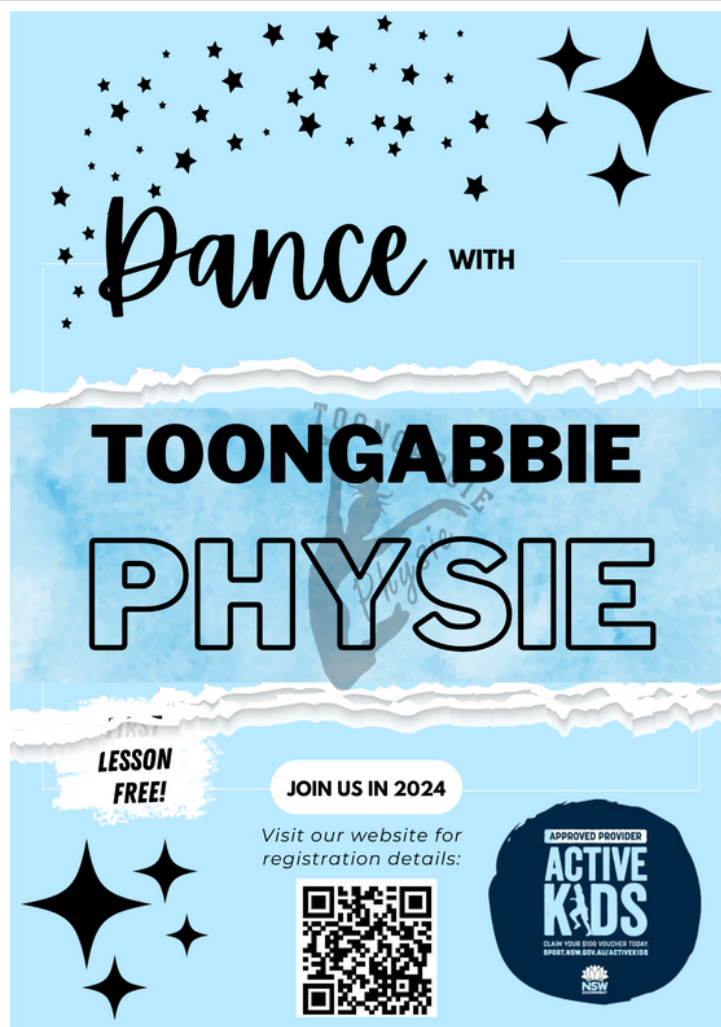
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+
Tuesday 23rd APRIL**

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- Karate kicking engages all muscle groups in the upper and lower abdominal areas & strengthens the lower back.
- Enhanced flexibility from karate training can greatly increase posture & vitality.
- Children who train in karate are much less likely to be bullied as they develop greater self-confidence & respect.
- Children's school work & class behaviour can be greatly improved through karate's disciplined training environment.



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This advertisement features a dark blue background with several circular inset photos showing children participating in soccer activities. The text is centered and uses a mix of white and yellow colors for emphasis.



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PREMIER For boys and girls aged 9 - 11 years	HOLIDAYS Exciting school holiday programs	BIRTHDAYS Soccer themed birthday parties

REGISTER NOW

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This advertisement features a dark blue background with circular inset photos of children playing soccer. The text is centered and uses white and yellow colors. A cartoon kangaroo mascot is positioned in the bottom right corner, wearing a white soccer jersey with the SoccaJoeys logo.