



**"Think before you speak.
Read before you think."
Fran Lebowitz**



JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

**Term 1 Week 6
March 2025**

We are well into the term, Week 6 already! We are so proud of our students for their amazing start to the year.

DIARY DATES

WEEK 6

Monday 3rd March

CLEAN UP SCHOOL DAY

Friday 7th March

PUPIL FREE DAY

WEEK 7

Monday 10th March

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Wednesday 12th March

NAPLAN Writing

Thursday 13th March

NAPLAN Reading

Friday 14th March

NAPLAN Language Conventions

WEEK 8

Monday 17th March

NAPLAN Numeracy

NAPLAN

This year NAPLAN testing will occur in Weeks 7 & 8, starting on Wednesday 12th March. Teachers encourage students to use their growth mindset and just do their best. We are always so proud of their efforts. You can support your child by reassuring them that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best. Some explanation of NAPLAN is useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests; however, it is not necessary for parents/carers to do this. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance. These are assessments that provide governments, schools and families with a snapshot of children's abilities in these areas. It is important to remember that it is that, a snapshot. We, as a school also collect other, more frequent, assessment data that helps teachers to track and monitor learning. We can discuss this learning data with families during parent-teacher interviews.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS will be held in Week 9. At parent/teacher interviews, please take time to ask about your child/ren's reading progress so you can work in partnership with us between home and school.

DIARIES

Checking and signing your child's diary at the end of each week is an essential part of supporting their organisational skills and academic success. The diary serves as a vital communication tool between home and school, helping you stay informed about learning tasks, upcoming events, and important notices. By reviewing and signing it, you demonstrate your involvement in their education and encourage them to take responsibility for their tasks. This routine not only helps your child stay organised but also fosters a sense of accountability and time management, skills that are crucial for their future success. Thank you for your continued support in this important aspect of their learning journey.

PUPIL FREE DAY

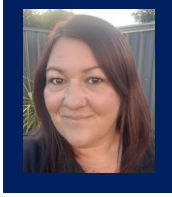
We are excited to inform you that on this Friday's pupil-free day, our staff will be engaged in professional learning focused on ReLATE. Reframing Learning and Teaching Environments (ReLATE) is a research and trauma-informed education model that provides a blueprint for schools to create supportive environments for teaching and improved student learning and wellbeing.

***** MONDAY 10th March- ADELAIDE CUP: PUBLIC HOLIDAY: NO SCHOOL**

Kind Regards,
Julie Stockdale- Head of Junior School
Julie.stockdale908@schools.sa.edu.au



MEET THE STAFF



Narelle Green

Hello.

My name is Narelle and I have been an SSO at GDC Junior School since early last year.

I am a mum of 5 and they have all attended this school so when I was given the opportunity to join the team it just made sense to me. The staff make it a great place to work.

I have really enjoyed getting to know the children and building relationships based on trust and respect.

Watching them thrive and helping them overcome their struggles is what I love most about my job.

On the weekends and holidays I like to go away to the beach. Searching for baby crabs in the rocks is something we do every time we go. I also like crocheting and reading books in my spare time.

JUNIOR SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Julie Stockdale

Head of Junior School R-6

Julie.stockdale908@schools.sa.edu.au

Michaela Selway

Acting Assistant Head of Junior School, Learning Support Leader & AIT

Skye Miller

Wellbeing Leader & AET

The Importance of Parent Support in Regular Home Reading

In the world of sports, athletes like Sam Kerr, Zak Butters and Lionel Messi inspire us with their dedication and achievements. Despite their natural talent, they practise every day, guided by their coaches, who play crucial roles in their success. This commitment is not just for athletes; it is equally important in education, especially in developing reading skills.

In the 'game' of reading, teachers are the coaches, guiding and instructing your child to develop their skills. As parents, you are the vital supporters, cheering them on and providing encouragement at home. Here's how you can support daily home reading:

Create a reading routine: Set aside a specific time each day for reading. Consistency helps children develop a habit and look forward to this special time.

Provide a variety of books: Offer a range of books that cater to your child's interests. This variety keeps reading exciting and engaging.

Being a reading role model: Show your child that reading is important by reading yourself. Share your favourite books and discuss what you're reading.

Engage in reading together: Spend time reading with your child. Discuss the stories, ask questions, and encourage them to express their thoughts.

Celebrate progress: Acknowledge your child's reading achievements, no matter how small. Celebrating progress boosts their confidence and motivation.

YES, BUT... What if you find yourself short on time, too busy, or if your child doesn't like reading, consider these suggestions:

Use audiobooks: Listen to audiobooks with a hard copy of the book together. This can be a fun way to engage with stories.

Share the reading: Take turns reading pages or chapters. This can make the experience more interactive and enjoyable.

Interests: Choose books related to your child's hobbies or favourite topics to spark their interest.

Our expectation is that **all our students in the junior school will read for 15-20 minutes a day, at least five times a week.**

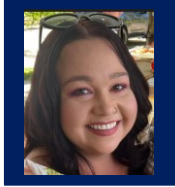
This needs to be recorded daily in their diary. Reception to Year 2 students need to have their reader bags available at school every day, along with all junior school student diaries. Home reading is not only a valued routine; it is a homework expectation.

Thank you for being the enthusiastic supporters in your child's reading journey. Together with their teachers, we can help them become

READING CHAMPIONS!



MEET THE STAFF



Monique Briggs

Hi families,
My name is Miss Mon and this is my first year at GDC where I have a lovely Year 1/2 class. What a wonderful start to the year, student's all over the school have made me feel so welcome, especially getting out and about playing basketball with the 5/6's at break times. This is my 4th year teaching and I'm really excited to see where this year takes me.

I'm a dedicated teacher who balances the joys of educating with the crazy adventures of raising two wonderful kids. They keep me extra busy outside of school with dance and soccer. I find happiness in the simple pleasures—sipping a warm cup of coffee, getting lost in a good book, and soaking up the sunshine. Laughter is my secret ingredient for making every day brighter, whether it's in the classroom, at home, or just enjoying the little moments in life. Laughter is the best medicine and I don't mind having a laugh at my own expense!

2025 PUPIL FREE DATES

7 MARCH	Term 1 Pupil Free day
6 JUNE	Term 2 Pupil Free day
4 SEPTEMBER	Term 3 Pupil Free day
5 SEPTEMBER	Term 3 School Closure
17 NOVEMBER	Term 4 Pupil Free day



Visit Us At:
www.gdc.sa.edu.au



We are thrilled to celebrate the success of our **Lunchtime Yoga Club**, held every Thursday in the Activity Room with the wonderful Jessica Sensei. This club is becoming a cherished part of our school community, offering students a unique opportunity to explore the many benefits of yoga.

Special Qualities and Skills in Yoga

- Mindfulness and Focus:** Yoga encourages mindfulness, helping students to focus on the present moment and improve concentration.
- Flexibility and Strength:** Through various poses and stretches, students enhance their physical flexibility and build strength.
- Stress Relief:** Yoga provides a calming environment, teaching students techniques to manage stress and promote relaxation.
- Balance and Coordination:** Practising yoga improves balance and coordination, which are essential skills for overall physical development.
- Self Awareness and Confidence:** Yoga fosters self-awareness and boosts confidence as students master new poses and techniques.

Jessica Sensei brings her expertise and passion to each session, creating a welcoming and supportive atmosphere for all participants. Whether your child is new to yoga or has some experience, they are sure to benefit from this enriching activity.



All students are invited to join in and experience the joy and benefits of yoga.

Thank you to Jessica for facilitating our Lunchtime Yoga Club and encouraging a healthy, balanced lifestyle for our students.

Mr. Singh (R-2)

Room 49.3

Fine motor activities:

We love getting engaged and engrossed in activities that build our fine motor skills. We begin our day with the learning that help us to have a calm and relaxed start of our day.



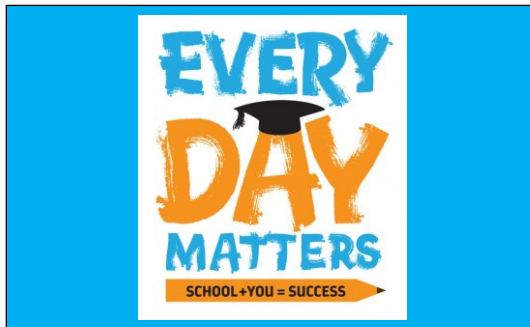
Literacy block:

Our literacy block starts with the morning circle and includes daily review, stencil colouring, writing, reading, tracing and sight words learning. We enjoy participating in our literacy block.



Weekly swimming lesson:

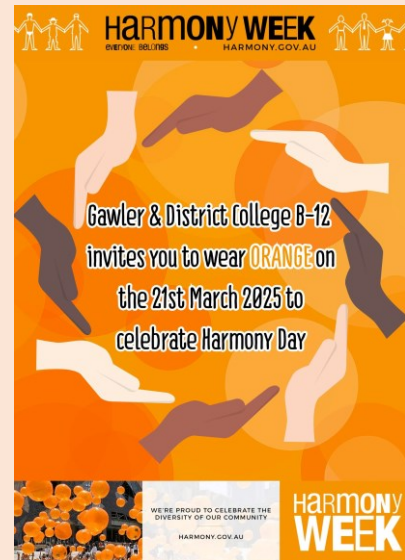
We love participating in our swimming lesson, as it is so fun to be in water, especially on a hot day. Swimming helps us in gaining superior muscle tone, improved joint mobility, enhances our gross motor skills and builds core muscle strength.



Class	No.Of	Week 4
Mrs O’Rielly	29	95.7%
Mrs Seebohm	30	81.3%
Mr Wurfel	29	88.3%
Mrs McMahon	30	82.8%
Miss Lamont	27	80.9%
Miss Lauren	24	88.7%
Miss Zachoryj	15	90.3%
Miss Mon	25	76.0%
Ms Coomber	14	88.3%
Mrs Burne	16	83.0%
Miss Issie	25	84.8%
Mrs Richardson	26	86.0%
Miss Alycia	26	91.6%
Miss Mitchell	27	91.9%
Mr Singh	6	91%
Mrs Ros	12	83.6%
	361	86%

Year	No. Of Students	Week 4
Re	47	85%
1	45	87%
2	49	81%
3	57	88%
4	54	87%
5	47	83%
6	63	87%
Total	362	85.6%

School Matters!



Harmony Day is just around the corner, and we’re excited to celebrate the incredible diversity of cultures that make up our Junior School community! This special day, held on **21st March 2025** is an opportunity for us to come together, share and learn about the rich cultural traditions that make our community unique.

This year, we have invited our community to be part of the celebration by sharing cultural backgrounds with our students.

Whether big or small, everyone’s involvement will make a huge difference in helping our students appreciate and celebrate the variety of cultures in our school.



LEARNING IN 41.1 with Miss Lauren

Maths

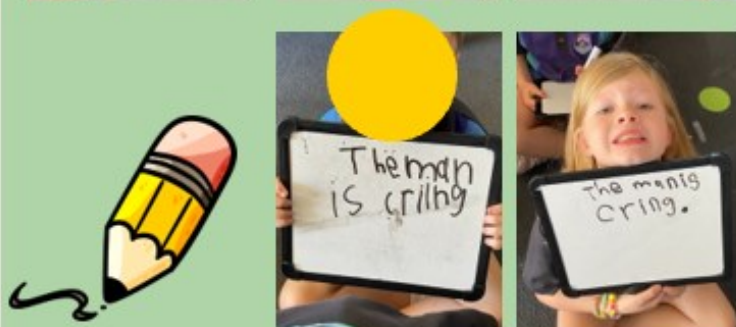
In maths we have been learning to make and write 2-digit numbers using tens (bundles) and ones.



We also spent some time outside practising giving and following directions with a partner.

In writing, we have been learning all about simple sentences. We now know that a sentence must have a who and a do.

Literacy



Creating a safe place

Our classroom prides itself on being a safe space for students to be who they are. We understand that no-body is the same, and we love that! We appreciate that people have unique needs, individual ways of learning and alternate ways of expressing themselves. Our class respectfully listens to the needs of others.



Buddies

This year, we are excited to be working with our Year 2/3 buddies in Miss Issie's class. We have worked together already with great success, and look forward to the next sessions!



Gratefulness/Mindfulness

Each day after lunch, we have 10 -15 minutes of calm, quiet time, to be grateful and let our minds rest before the afternoon's learning. The students are really enjoying our art therapy station, and the many sensory tools and games available in our inclusive classroom.

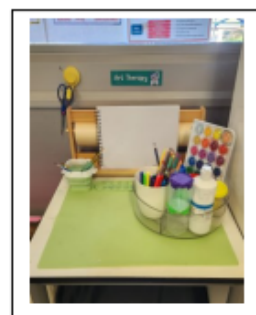
In the classroom

This year we are looking forward to

Harmony Day	Swimming
Sports Day	Wellbeing Day
Special Lunches	Book Week
Assemblies	Excursions
Team Activities	Buddies

In the classroom

Room 4.11 is amazing! We have set our learning sprint goals for term 1, with realistic steps towards even bigger targets for later in the year! Stretching our brains & challenging our thinking!



NAPLAN 2025

Information for parents and carers



Why do students do NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students have the opportunity to undertake.

As students progress through their school years, it is important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national proficiency standards.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with more information about students' educational progress.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working, and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

Your child will do the NAPLAN tests online

Online NAPLAN tests are designed to provide precise results and are engaging for students. The tests are tailored (or adaptive), which means that each test presents questions that may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses. This helps students remain engaged with the assessment.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

All Year 3 students will continue to complete the writing assessment on paper.

What does NAPLAN assess?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum.

Students sit assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

All government and non-government education authorities contribute to the development of NAPLAN test materials.

To find out more about NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au.

Participation in NAPLAN

NAPLAN is for all Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. ACARA supports inclusive testing, so all students have the opportunity to participate in the National Assessment Program.

Information on adjustments available for students with disability who have diverse functional abilities and needs is provided in the [National protocols for test administration](#).

Schools should work with parents/carers and students to identify, on a case-by-case basis, reasonable adjustments required for individual students with disability to access NAPLAN.

To help inform these decisions, you may consult the National protocols for test administration (linked above), [NAPLAN public demonstration site](#), the [Guide for schools to assist students with disability to access NAPLAN](#), and our [series of videos](#) where parents/carers, teachers and students share their experiences in using NAPLAN adjustments.

In exceptional circumstances, a student with a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background, may be granted a formal exemption.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on adjustments for students with disability or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

What if my child is absent from school on NAPLAN test days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule.

What can I do to support my child?

Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN. You can support your child by letting them know that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best. Some explanation of NAPLAN is useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests; however, it is not necessary for parents/carers to do this. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of services by coaching providers.

See the types of questions and tools available in the online NAPLAN assessments at [NAP – Public demonstration site](#).

How is my child's performance reported?

From 2023, NAPLAN results are reported against proficiency standards. There is a standard for each assessment area at each year level. Proficiency standards provide clear information on student achievement. They are set at a challenging but reasonable level expected of the child at the time of NAPLAN testing, based mainly

on what has been taught in previous years of schooling. Student achievement is shown against 4 levels of proficiency: Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs additional support.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be provided by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students and parents/carers use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help identify students who need greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas of need to improve teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review the effectiveness of programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see information about the performance of schools over time at [myschool.edu.au](#).

Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at [nap.edu.au/TAA](#)
- visit [nap.edu.au](#)

To learn how ACARA manages personal information for NAPLAN, visit [nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy](#).

NAPLAN timetable

The NAPLAN test window is 9 days. This is to accommodate schools that may not have the capacity to complete the tests in a shorter time frame. **The NAPLAN test window starts on Wednesday 12 March 2025 and finishes on Monday 24 March 2025.** Schools will schedule the tests as soon as possible within the testing window, prioritising the first week.

Test	Scheduling requirements	Duration	Test description
Writing	Year 3 students do the writing test on paper on day 1 only. Years 5, 7 and 9 writing must start on day 1 (schools must prioritise completion of writing on day 1, with day 2 only used where there are technical/logistical limitations).	Year 3: 40 min Year 5: 42 min Year 7: 42 min Year 9: 42 min	Students are provided with an idea or topic called a writing stimulus (or prompt) and asked to write a response in a particular genre (narrative or persuasive writing).
Reading	To be completed after the writing test.	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts, and then answer related questions.
Conventions of language	To be completed after the reading test.	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 45 min Year 7: 45 min Year 9: 45 min	Students are assessed on spelling, grammar and punctuation.
Numeracy	To be completed after the conventions of language test.	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students are assessed on number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability.