



*"Reading is essential  
for those who seek to  
rise above the  
ordinary."*

*Jim Rohn*



## JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Term 1 Week 6  
March 2024

### DIARY DATES

#### WEEK 7

NAPLAN – 9.00am

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> : WRITING

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> : READING

Friday 15<sup>th</sup>

**PUPIL FREE DAY**

#### WEEK 8

NAPLAN – 9.00am

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> : LANGUAGE  
CONVENTIONS

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> : NUMERACY

Wednesday- Friday: CATCH UP

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Mar

**HARMONY DAY**

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar

**DISCO**

#### WEEK 9

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> Mar

**PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS**

**READING** is a lifelong skill. In the Junior School, staff are always looking at current research and resourcing to ensure we support our learners for all aspects of reading. As part of our 2024 School Improvement Plan, our 'Goal' is to 'To increase the number of students achieving in the **EXCEEDING** proficiency standard in the Junior School. Our teachers focus on this through a 'Challenge of Practice': If we continue to build the capacity of teachers to implement targeted differentiated teaching of reading based on the Big 6 then we will increase student achievement in reading in the Junior School R-6. Our 'Actions' include: Teachers explicitly teach phonemic awareness skills daily and use data to inform next steps in teaching. Daily Review and Instructional Routines of systematic synthetic phonics and morphology, explicitly teach reading comprehension and expert teaching implementing the Australian Curriculum through Explicit Direct Instruction pedagogical practices. We will continue to share and celebrate our Reading focus with our families.

**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.

#### NAPLAN

This year NAPLAN testing will occur in Weeks 7 & 8, starting on Wednesday 13 March. 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.

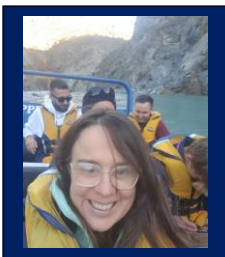
#### FACEBOOK AND CLASS SEESAW

Please take up the invitation to join our school Facebook page and your child's classroom Seesaw app. They both enable us the opportunity to provide up to date information, reminders and alerts.

Ngaityalya,  
(Kaurna, thank you)  
**Julie**



## MEET THE STAFF



### Jacinta Robinson

Hi everyone.

My name is Jacinta Robinson and I am thrilled to be working as a Reception Teacher at Gawler & District College this year.

I worked in Pinnaroo Primary School in 2023, which is a farming region in the Murray Mallee.

I have 2 children. William has just finished Year 12 and Lara is in Year 11. I also have a dog called Bruno who is a little Maltese Shitzu.

Last year, I had a family adventure to New Zealand. Here is a photo of me on the 'Shotover Jet' in Queenstown. I also saw the scenery used in the Lord of the Rings trilogy!

I enjoy walking my dog, cooking, shopping and reading.

I look forward to meeting the families and students of the school community!

## JUNIOR SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

### Julie Stockdale

Head of Junior School R-6  
[Julie.stockdale908@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Julie.stockdale908@schools.sa.edu.au)

### Jody Burton

Assistant Head of Junior School

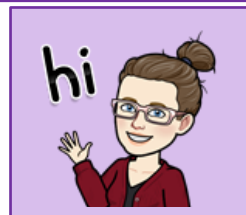
### Skye Miller

Wellbeing Leader/AET

### Michaela Selway

Learning Support Leader/AIT

## 🌟 Welcome Back, Wonderful Families! 📧



Dear Junior School Families,

I hope this message finds you well and filled with anticipation for the exciting year ahead! As we step into 2024, I am thrilled to extend a warm welcome back to all our incredible students and families.

I am honoured to be the Learning Support Coordinator in the GDC Junior School, and I am enthusiastic about the learning journey we are embarking on this year. Our commitment to providing a supportive and inclusive environment for every student is at the forefront of our mission.

### 📺 Introducing Exciting Learning Support Opportunities! 🚀

To kick off the year on a positive note, I am delighted to announce the release of a special video that showcases new and exciting learning support opportunities available at our school. This video is a testament to our dedication to fostering a learning environment that meets the diverse needs of every student.

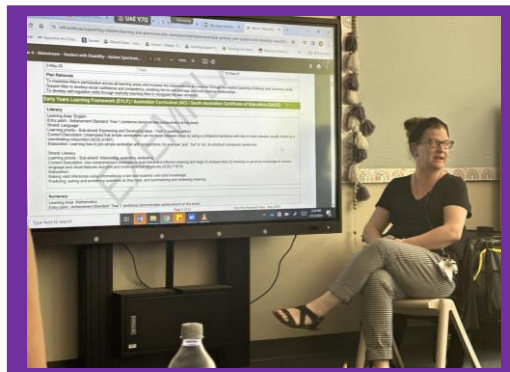
🔍 In this video, we explore the innovative approaches and resources we have in place to support students in their academic and personal growth. From tailored intervention programs to collaborative learning spaces, we are committed to ensuring that every child feels empowered and capable of reaching their full potential.

👤 Together, we can make this academic year a truly enriching and positive experience for every learner.

The video was shared through Seesaw.

### 📅 Junior School Autism Connection Hub

Our first Hub meeting was on 27<sup>th</sup> February. Two identical Hub meetings were offered, one during school hours and another after school hours. Interested parents joined us for an information session where we delved deeper into One Child, One Plans. This session was a fantastic opportunity to ask questions, share insights, and get involved in your child's educational journey. Thank you to all who were able to attend.



**Thank you for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your children. Here's to a fantastic 2024 filled with learning, laughter, and endless possibilities!**





Our Jacaranda classes were fortunate enough to be able to participate in the South Australian Cricket Association "Cricket Blast" program. It was a free program that ran over 4 weeks at school. All the participants received a free t-shirt and hat.

The children absolutely enjoyed it and are already counting the days for next year's clinic!

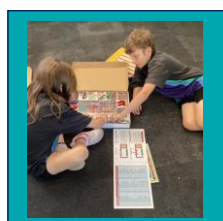


### Science News with Ms Burton and Ms Selway -TERM 1

Welcome back, Junior School Scientists! It's a brand new year filled with exciting discoveries and hands-on experiments. Ms Burton and Ms Selway are thrilled to kick off the first newsletter of the year, highlighting the captivating world of science that awaits us.

**Years 5/6 and Primary Jacaranda - Physical Science - It's Electrifying:** For students in Years 5 and 6, as well as Primary Jacaranda, the buzz is all about electricity. From constructing simple circuits to exploring conductors and insulators, our young scientists are sparking their curiosity as they unravel the secrets of this electrifying topic

**Junior Jacaranda - Physical Science - Push and Pull:** In Junior Jacaranda, the focus is on the basics of physical science, with students learning about the fundamental concepts of push and pull. Through interactive demonstrations and playful activities, they are discovering how these forces shape movement and interactions in the world around them.



**'Elements of Me' Posters and Surveys:** In the first two weeks of term, students have been busy creating 'Elements of Me' posters, reflecting on their personal interests and connections to science. These colourful displays now adorn our classrooms, serving as a reminder of the diverse scientific passions within our school community. Additionally, students have completed surveys about their experiences with science and their learning preferences. The insights gathered from these surveys will play a crucial role in shaping future teaching approaches, ensuring that lessons are tailored to students' interests and learning styles.

**Science in Action:** Here are some exciting examples of science in action in Primary Jacaranda and the Year 5/6 classes.

- **Electric Circuits:** Students lit up the classroom with their electrifying experiments, constructing circuits and exploring the flow of electricity with lights, lie detectors and fans.



Stay tuned for more exciting updates from Ms Burton and Ms Selway as we explore the wonders of the natural world together!



## JUNIOR SCHOOL HOUSES

This year we are really excited to introduce our new House points positive behaviour system in the Junior School. Our system of House points acknowledges success, motivates students to aim high and demonstrate our school values- Respect, Generosity and Excellence. It will a very visual way to share our successes with students, staff and Junior School community. We have 4 Houses: PARI (blue), TIRNTU (yellow), WIRRA (green) & YARTA (red).

Every student is in a House Team aligned with our Sports Day Teams. Students are awarded team points for a range of reasons: for academic achievement and progress, effort and aiming to do their best, attendance, behaviour and manners, helpfulness, school uniform, teamwork and demonstrating the school values of Respect, Generosity and Excellence. Our JS House Leaderboard will be updated regularly and shared on Seesaw.



Is your child taking up the Challenge in 2024?  
If so, please ensure they fill in their student reading records as they read their books, get them signed off as they go and please make sure your child hands it into their teacher or the library by Friday 6th September 2024.  
The challenge is to read 12 books in total.



Miss Akeroyd's year 5/6 class have been really excited to have some guests in their classroom so far this year.

Some butterfly eggs were kindly donated by Miss Akeroyd's Mum and we have been enjoying observing how quickly they have grown from eggs into caterpillars.

Each student has an observation journal which is filled in twice a week. This allows us to use important vocabulary such as "chrysalis" in context. Students have also been making predications as to how long they think it'll take to move through each stages of the life cycle.

How many caterpillars can you see?



The Junior School Choir received a visit from Robyn from the Primary Schools Festival of Music on Friday. They performed this year's songs beautifully and even tried out some new choreography! Well done, team!

## JUNIOR SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUB



Start your day RIGHT!

Open Every Day!

8:30am-8:45am

Outside JS Activity Hall

Visit Us:  
[www.gdc.sa.edu.au](http://www.gdc.sa.edu.au)





### Acknowledgement of Country

Together as a class, we collaboratively crafted our own Acknowledgment of Country. Embracing an Acknowledgment of Country is more than a mere gesture; it serves as a sign of respect for traditional custodians of this land.

- Olivia and Hailey-

### Acknowledgement of Country in 4.10

We acknowledge this land as traditional land of the Kaurna people.

As leaders of the junior school, we promise to guide the upcoming generation of students and protect the Yarta (country), Tintu (sun), Pari (Water) and Wirra (Forest).

We respect and thank Elders past, present and merging.

### Buddies

This year we will be working with our year 2/3 buddies in Miss Alycia's class. We cannot wait to mentor and inspire the next generation of learners, while focusing on our school's values of Respect, Excellence, and Generosity along the way.

-Caitlyn and Mia-



### Mindfulness

Following each lunch break, we engage in mindfulness practice, a important routine that aids in sharpening our focus, reducing stress, enhancing self-awareness, fostering resilience, and much more.

-Jamie and Freddie-



### In the classroom

This year we are looking forward to;

Year 6 camp	Swimming
Sports Day	Wellbeing Day
S.A.P.S.A.S.A	Book Week
Graduation	Excursions
Walk and Talk	Miss O'Rielly's wedding

### In the classroom

We enjoy being in room 4.10. We are excited to be learning new things and working hard to meet the success, stretch and challenge criteria of our Learning Intentions.

-Chrysler and Dekota -

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

GENEROSITY

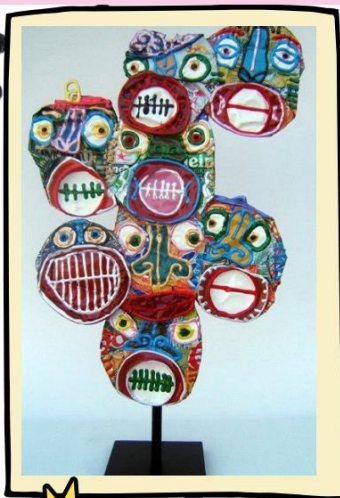


# MS ROS Visual Art

1

# MS ROS Visual Art

2



This week we were inspired by French artist **Didier Triglia**.

He is famous for turning smashed aluminum cans into unique faces and creations.



We smashed our own cans to come up with some fantastic creations.



## What sort of start is your child getting?

Just a little bit late doesn't seem much but.....

He/She is only missing just....	That equals....	Which is.....	and over 13 years of schooling that's....
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly <b>Half a year</b>
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40 mins per week	Over 2.5 Weeks per year	Nearly <b>1 year</b>
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	4 Weeks per year	Nearly <b>1 and a Half years</b>
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 Weeks per year	Over <b>2 and a Half years</b>

Did you know your child's best learning time is the start of the school day?

That's when every minute counts the most!!

**EVERY DAY COUNTS!**

Year	No. Of Students	Week 6
Re	45	87.0%
1	52	85.8%
2	48	85.0%
3	50	90.4%
4	40	88.0%
5	60	86.7%
6	69	81.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>364</b>	
CIC	23	
FN Students	55	

Class	No.Of Students	Week 6
Miss O'Rielly	29	86.9%
Mrs Boul Hosn	28	90.0%
Mr Wurfel	29	87.6%
Miss McMahon	29	75.9%
Miss Akeroyd	28	84.3%
Miss Lauren	26	92.3%
Miss Zachoryj	22	84.6%
Miss Bailey	25	88.0%
Mrs Coomber	23	84.4%
Mrs Burne	24	83.3%
Mrs Seebohm	26	90.8%
Miss Alycia	27	83.7%
Miss Mitchell	28	85.0%
Mr Singh	8	85.0%
Mrs Ros	12	93.3%
	<b>364</b>	<b>86%</b>

## LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES

We are pleased to advise that we have a selection of lunchtime activities to support our students in the Junior School. There is so much to do to keep our students active and engaged at playtime. Please look over the below rosters and chat with your child about their options at playtime if they would like to engage in lunchtime activities.

## Lunchtime Activity Roster



**Monday**

Just Dance - Activity Room  
Japanese Room Activities

**Tuesday**

Computer Club - Activity Room  
Creators Club - Ochre Hub

**Wednesday**

Lego Club - Activity Room  
Craft Club - Ochre Building

**Thursday**

Computer Club - Activity Room

**Friday**

Just Dance - Activity Room  
Calm Club - Ochre Hub  
Craft Club - Outside Activity Room





## TERM ONE Junior School Fundraising Event



**FRIDAY 22 MARCH 2024**

**Reception - Year 3  
5pm - 6pm**

**Year 3 - 6  
6:15pm - 7:30pm**

\*\*\* Year 3 Children can choose 1 session to attend in the Activity Room \*\*\*

**\$5**  
GST FREE

**Heaps of Games And Prizes  
LUCKY DIPS, FINGER LIGHTS, TREATS  
GLOWING ACCESSORIES & SNACKS FOR SALE**

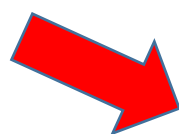
**Ticket includes a drink and a packet of chips**



Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Will be attending: Reception - Year 3 Session / Year 3 - 6 Session

**Please return completed slip along with money to class teacher  
or College Central Finance by Thursday 21 March 2024**



**WE NEED  
YOUR HELP**



## FUNDRAISING EVENTS GROUP

We are eager to create a **Parent Fundraising Events Group** in our Junior School. The group would work in consultation with Julie Stockdale-Head of Junior School to plan and organise events for our students. Events such as 'Special Lunch' to celebrate National Simultaneous Storytime' in Term 2, Cookie Dough drive, 'Soup Day' etc. The children enjoy and appreciate these special days.

**We'd love to have your help. If you're interested please let Julie know via Seesaw message, at the gate in the morning, email or call. 😊**

## Join the OSHC Committee



Our **OSHC Committee**- Julie Stockdale (Head of Junior School), Leanne Conway (GC Chairperson) and Tanya Rayner (Happy Haven Relationships Manager) are seeking a **parent representative** to join our committee.

Our next meeting is:

**WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> March @ 9.15am  
in Junior School.**

Please message on Seesaw or email Julie if you would like to join us.



## Junior School Parent-Teacher Interviews

GAWLER & DISTRICT  
COLLEGE B-12

### Parent-Teacher Interviews

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We will be conducting parent-teacher interviews during Week 9 of Term 1. This year we are offering 3-Way interviews where your child is part of the discussion and able to share and discuss their progress with both you and the teacher present.

Interviews will be 15 minutes long and are on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March, Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.

Interviews offer an opportunity for parents, students and teachers to discuss

- Learning progress
- Relationships with other children individually or in groups
- Development of responsibility for learning
- Ways to work together to support progress at school

This year we will be using the online system. (School Interviews). To book your interview times go to the school interview website <https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au>

Enter the code 13db8 and follow the instructions.

OR

Scan the QR Code.

1. Enter your details.
2. Select the teachers you wish to see.
3. Select the appointment time that suits your family.

If you do not receive an email INSTANTLY, please check your junk-mail AND your SPAM folder, or enter the event code again and check your email address spelling. Update your details if the email address is incorrect.

The email will arrive from [bookings@schoolinterviews.com.au](mailto:bookings@schoolinterviews.com.au)

DO NOT DELETE the email you receive

And if you need to change or cancel your bookings, just enter the event code again: 13db8, if you're on the same computer, you'll go straight to your bookings.

**If you do not have access to a computer/internet you can ring the school and we will do the booking for you.**

If these days are not suitable for you please make arrangements with your child's teacher for an alternative time to meet in another week.

We hope you will take up this important opportunity to meet with your child's teacher.

Julie Stockdale  
Head of Junior School



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education and  
Child Development



GAWLER & DISTRICT  
COLLEGE B-12

## GOVERNING COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**MONDAY 25TH MARCH 2024  
6PM - 7:30PM**

**PHOENIX DRAMA CENTRE  
BARNET ROAD EVANSTON**

**RSVP Friday 22nd March 24**

For nomination forms or further information please  
contact dl.0774.info@schools.sa.edu.au or phone  
8521 2400





# ROOM 41.1 YEAR 1/2 WITH MISS LAUREN

## Counting to 120!

In maths we have been learning about numbers to 120. We picked a basket of objects to count with a partner and then created a display!



## Buddies

In Kuma Community time we have buddied up with Mrs Boul Hosn's year 4/5 class. We learnt about the 4 Zones of Regulation and worked with our big buddies to create a poster for an emotion.





# WHAT IS SCHOOL CARD?



School Card provides financial help to cover the cost of school fees.

## WHO CAN APPLY?

To qualify for School Card, your family's income must be below a specific limit. This limit depends on how many children are in your care.

You must also meet at least one of the following:

- have a child or children aged four years or over who attend a school full time
- be an independent full-time student studying year 10, 11 or 12
- be an adult re-entry student undertaking subjects to complete SACE (years 11 and 12).

You can find more information and apply for School Card here:

[www.sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard](http://www.sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard)

## HOW WILL I KNOW IF I AM APPROVED?

After you apply, you will receive a letter in the mail advising if your application has been approved. Please note, School Card is not a student identification card.

## WHO CAN HELP ME APPLY?

If you would like more information or need help applying for School Card, please visit your child's school office and show this flyer.

Hi! I would like help to apply for School Card.



[sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard](http://sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard)



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education