



JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Term 3 Week 6
August 2026

"There is no
substitute for books
in the life of a child".
Mary Ellen Chase

We are pleased to share that our **FATHER'S DAY STALL** was held on Thursday and Friday. There was a wide variety of beautifully gift-wrapped items available, with something for everyone, ranging from \$3 to \$30. This event provided a wonderful opportunity for students to choose a special gift for their dads or carers. We would like to thank the parent helpers (Leanne, Amelia & Caitlin) who assisted during the stall —your support was greatly appreciated!



We are delighted to acknowledge that the money raised from the Father's Day Stall will be assisting us with Stage 2 of our musical and sensory play area. Thank you again to everyone who contributed to the success of this event.

SPORTS DAY

Only **two weeks to go until Sports Day!** The excitement is building as our students continue to fine-tune their skills and prepare for the big day. They have been working hard on their sprinting, long-distance running and tabloid events, and of course, getting ready for our ever-popular Health Hustle! 🏃🏃

Sports Day is always a wonderful opportunity for our students to get active, cheer each other on and show plenty of team spirit, enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

And, of course, we'll have you covered for refreshments! There will be a range of delicious food options available for sale, along with a coffee van for that much-needed caffeine hit to keep everyone going!

Sports Day will be held on Friday 18th September. **Get ready for a day of friendly competition, teamwork and maybe a sprinkle of staff vs family vs student rivalry!** 🏆 ⌚ 🏃

DIARY DATES

WEEK 7

Monday 3rd August -Friday 4th Sept
STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

Thursday 3rd Sept & Friday 4th Sept
FATHER'S DAY STALL

Thursday 3rd Sept
ASSEMBLY @ 1.35pm
in the Pavillion hosted by Yr3/4

WEEK 8

Wednesday 9th Sept
NEURODIVERSITY DAY

WEEK 9

Thursday 17th Sept
CHOIR PERFORMANCE @ AEC

Friday 18th Sept
SPORTS DAY / COLOUR RUN

10 SEPTEMBER

Term 3 Pupil Free day

11 SEPTEMBER

Term 3 School Closure

Kind Regards,

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



MEET THE STAFF



Jenny McCarthy

Hi! My name is Jenny McCarthy and I am currently in the new - year Reception class.

I started at GDC in 2015 and enjoyed being a classroom teacher and a regular TRT for our school.

I work Monday to Thursday and have the pleasure having my 2 beautiful granddaughters every Friday.

I love camping in my caravan with my husband and our 2 beautiful cats. I have two daughters who are 32 and 27 years old. I enjoy camping and holidays with my girls and now have the pleasure to share this with their children.

I love to eat snacks, watch plenty of TV series, including Criminal Law cases.

I love to read, and dream of travelling around WA and NT with our cats.

JUNIOR SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Julie Stockdale

Head of Junior School R-6

Julie.stockdale908@schools.sa.edu.au

Michaela Selway

Junior School Inclusion & Pedagogy Leader & AIT

Skye Miller

Junior School Wellbeing & Engagement Leader

FUNDRAISING FOR OUR COLOUR RUN HAS STARTED!

Our Colour Run fundraising event is now underway, and we're excited to get everyone involved! Students are encouraged to start collecting sponsors from family, friends, and the wider community to help raise funds for our school. There are fantastic incentive prizes up for grabs, with rewards starting at just \$10 raised! Prizes include squish balls, fun toys, cool gadgets, and even XBOXs, so there's something for everyone. Students who reach higher fundraising goals can also earn Golden Coins through the online fundraising platform, which can be exchanged for extra prize credit—over \$200,000 worth of prize credit is available! These prizes help keep students motivated, celebrate their efforts, and encourage families to get behind the Colour Run. Start reaching out to your family and friends, collect those sponsors, and let's see how much we can achieve together!



Our next stage – The Red Gum Garden is due to start mid-September. Our Colour Run fundraising will enable us to purchased additional musical and sensory equipment. So, let's all get together and aim to raise as much money as we can to build an AMAZING play area.





Attendance Matters



THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

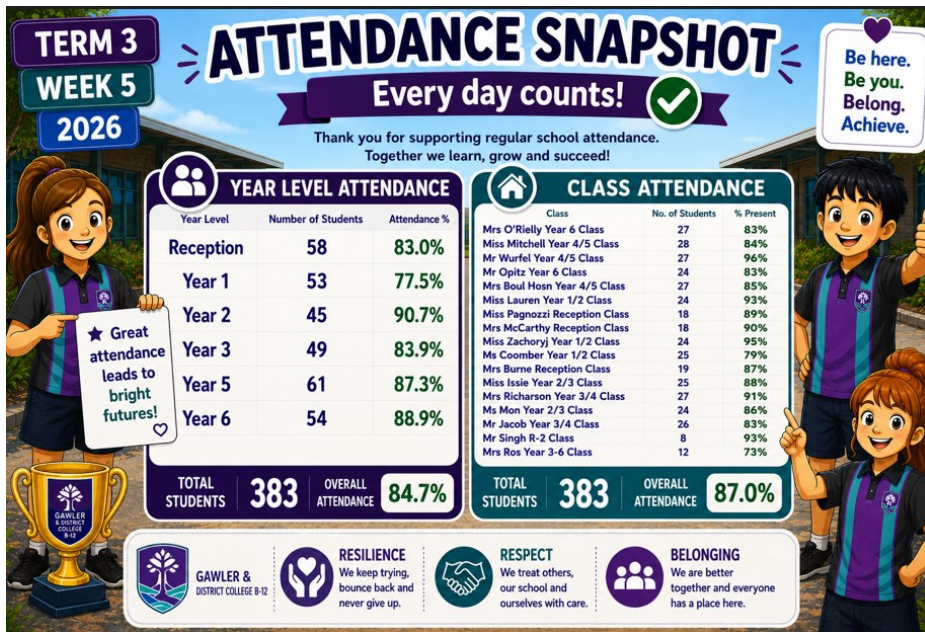
Being at school **every day-and on time**-is vital for student learning and success. Our Junior School **gates open at 8.30am** and **learning begins at 8.45am**. Regular attendance ensures students engage in every learning experience while arriving on time allows everyone to start the day smoothly and confidently.

HOW FAMILIES CAN SUPPORT

We encourage families to prioritise regular and timely attendance by:

- establishing morning routines
- Planning ahead for appointments outside of school hours whenever possible
- Communicating with the school if your child is unable to attend

EVERY STUDENT, EVERY DAY, ON TIME – BECAUSE EVERY MOMENT COUNTS



2026 Term Three					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 7	31/8	1/9	2/9	3/9	4/9
Week 8	7/9	8/9	9/9	10/9	11/9
Week 9	14/9	15/9	16/9	17/9	18/9
Week 10	21/9	22/9	23/9	24/9	25/9

Special events!

Week 7: Student Led Conferences, Father's Day Stalls

Week 8: Neurodiversity Day, Pupil Free Day, School Closure

Week 9: Choir @ Entertainment Centre - Performance, Sports Day & Colour Run

Week 10: Choir Party, Assembly, LAST DAY OF TERM 2.15 DISMISSAL

MEET THE STAFF



Ethni Mitchell

Hello! My name is Miss Mitchell.

This year marks my fourth year at GDC, and I am currently teaching a wonderful Year 4/5 class. I have recently returned to GDC after spending eight months teaching in London, which was an amazing experience that allowed me to experience a different school system while also travelling and exploring new places.

I am passionate about creating a classroom where students feel happy, supported and confident to have a go. I value building strong relationships with my students and encouraging them to challenge themselves, celebrate their progress and enjoy their learning.

When I'm not at school, I love travelling and exploring new places, spending time with my friends and family, and making the most of my weekends. After my time away, I am excited to be back home and enjoying everything Australia has to offer again.

I am looking forward to another fantastic year at GDC and all of the learning, laughter and memories that come with it!

MR OPITZ ROOM 4:22

Literacy

In Literacy, we have been exploring poetic structure and analysing a range of poems. Students have been identifying features such as rhyme, rhythm, repetition and stanza structure, while exploring how poets use language to communicate ideas and create meaning.

Numeracy

In Numeracy, we have been exploring measurement, area and perimeter through practical problem-solving activities. Students applied their learning to a camp packing task, using measurement and mathematical reasoning to plan what they would need to take with them.

High school transitions

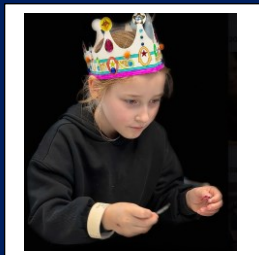
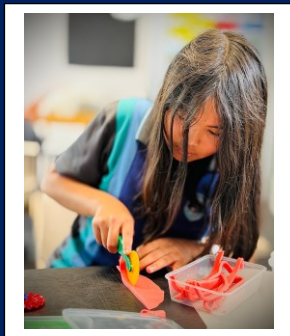
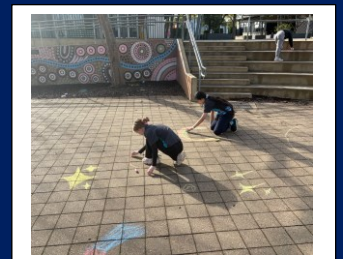
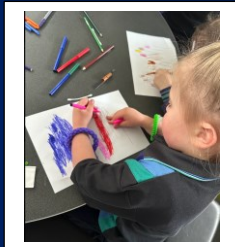
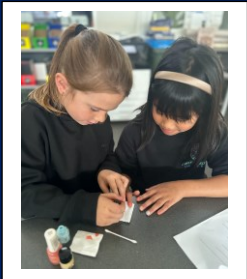
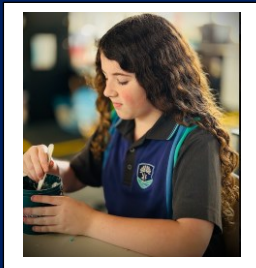
Students enjoyed a hands-on Transition Day at the high school, exploring the Ag facilities and meeting a range of farm animals. It was a great opportunity to experience life at their future high school!

Meeting the animals



Maths Ninjas!







SAPSASA

SOCCER and VOLLEYBALL



Selected students from Years 4,5 & 6 at Gawler & District College Junior School proudly represented our site at the SAPSASA Soccer and Volleyball tournaments on 21st August.

Our girls and boys teams played several games throughout the day, demonstrating teamwork, resilience, and a never-give-up attitude 🏆. Congratulations to all for their fantastic effort throughout the day 🌟.

A big thank you to Miss Bandana Basnet and volunteer parents for their outstanding coaching, encouragement, and support throughout the day. We are incredibly proud of the way Gawler & District College Junior School students represented our site both on and off the field!

