



# GAMADJI GAZETTE

Term 1, Week 2

The Gamadji Gazette is our fortnightly newsletter and where we share information about student learning, as well as important updates for families.

We have had an amazing start to Gamadji Primary School! Our students have settled in well, are making new friends, and are engaged in their classrooms and in the yard. I would like to thank our parents and staff for the positive energy and spirit you bring each day.

The beginning of the school year is a time when teachers focus on our Leap into Learning curriculum. This is when we revisit our school values and student expectations and lay the foundations for a successful year of learning. It is also a time when teachers carry out a range of learning assessments with students. This information helps us identify individual learning needs so that learning can be personalised, appropriately challenging, and ultimately more meaningful and rewarding.

## Curriculum Days (Student-Free Days)

To support staff professional learning, curriculum development and student assessment, the school will hold four student-free curriculum days. On these days, students are not required to attend school.

**Term 1:** Thursday 2 April

**Term 2:** Monday 20 April

**Term 3:** Monday 13 July

**Term 4:** Monday 5 October

Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) will be available on these days if required.

## Before and After School Care

Our new Out of School Hours Care program, delivered by Kelly Club, is up and running! Flyers are available at the school office for families who may be interested. If you have any questions about the service, including accessing the Child Care Subsidy, the program, or bookings, please contact Kelly Club at [gamadji@kellyclub.com.au](mailto:gamadji@kellyclub.com.au) or 0403 338 364.

## Mobile Phones

In 2020, a mandatory Department of Education Mobile Phone Policy was introduced. Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school are required to hand them in at the school office on arrival. Devices will be switched off and securely stored during school hours and can be collected from the office at the end of the school day. This policy also applies to smart watches, iPads, or other devices that can make calls, access the internet, or record images. The full policy is attached for your reference.



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## Child Safe Standards

The Child Safe Standards are compulsory minimum standards for all Victorian schools to ensure they are well prepared to protect children from abuse and neglect. To create and maintain a child-safe environment, Gamadji Primary School is committed to implementing and upholding the Child Safe Standards, which include:

- **Standard 1:** Culturally safe environment – Establishing a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued.
- **Standard 2:** Leadership, governance and culture – Ensuring child safety and wellbeing are embedded in school leadership, governance and culture.
- **Standard 3:** Child and student empowerment – Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions that affect them, and are taken seriously.
- **Standard 4:** Family engagement – Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
- **Standard 5:** Diversity and equity – Equity is upheld and diverse needs are respected in policy and practice.
- **Standard 6:** Suitable staff and volunteers – People working with children and young people are suitable, supported, and uphold child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
- **Standard 7:** Child-focused complaints processes – Processes for complaints and concerns are child-focused and accessible.
- **Standard 8:** Child safety knowledge, skills and awareness – Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
- **Standard 9:** Physical and online environments – Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the risk of harm to children and young people.
- **Standard 10:** Review of child safety practices – Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.
- **Standard 11:** Implementation of child safety practices – Policies and procedures document how schools create and maintain child-safe environments for children and young people.



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There are several key policies linked to these standards, including the Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy, Child Safety Risk Register, Child Safety Code of Conduct, and Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations Policy and Procedures. These policies are attached to this newsletter and will also be available on the school website early next week.

## What this means for families

Families can expect that child safety and wellbeing are a priority at Gamadji Primary School. All staff and volunteers are trained in child safety, clear expectations for behaviour are in place, and concerns are taken seriously and responded to appropriately.

## Important Event

Next week, we will welcome the Minister for Education to our school for its official opening. Some of our senior students and I will take the Minister on a tour of the school and visit several classrooms. It will be an exciting day for Gamadji!

Until our next edition, take care and thank you for being part of our Gamadji community.

Ms Marchionna

