

# THE GIRRAWEEEN GAZETTE

Term 4 Week 7

## Principals Report



### Term 4 Dates:

**Tuesday 14 October - Friday 19 December**

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

### [School Bytes Calendar](#)

School returns for all 2026 students on Monday 2 February.

As we approach the end of another wonderful year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many achievements and milestones our students and staff have reached throughout 2025. It has been a year full of growth, learning, and memorable experiences.

Firstly, congratulations to our Year 6 students who are now preparing to move on to high school. We are incredibly proud of everything you have accomplished during your time here. You have shown resilience, enthusiasm, and leadership, and we wish you all the very best as you embark on this exciting new chapter.

I would also like to take this opportunity to offer a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated student leadership team—our captains, prefects, librarians, and SRC members. Your enthusiasm, commitment, and leadership have been invaluable in supporting our school community this year.

You have contributed positively to many school events and initiatives, and your efforts have made a real difference in making our school a welcoming and vibrant place. We sincerely appreciate your hard work and the exemplary role models you have been to your fellow students.

A huge shout-out to our outstanding sport representatives! Your dedication, team spirit, and hard work have truly shone through in all your competitions and events. Your commitment to sport has not only brought pride to our school but has also embodied the values of perseverance and teamwork. You have broken many records, won countless games and displayed sportsmanship beyond your years.



We are also thrilled to celebrate the successes of our students in various academic and cultural pursuits this year. Our public speaking competitors demonstrated exceptional confidence and communication skills, representing our school with pride and earning commendations. Participants in the Maths Olympiad showcased impressive problem-solving abilities and analytical thinking, achieving excellent results. Our choir's involvement in the Festival of Choral Music was inspiring to witness. Their commitment and talent brought beautiful harmony and a sense of community spirit to our school.

Finally, as we come to the end of the year, we also bid farewell to some truly remarkable members of our teaching team. It is with mixed emotions that we say goodbye to Mr Ward (retired), Miss Khoury (promotion), Miss Robinson (transfer), Miss Spargo (transfer), Mrs Andrews (permanent appointment) and Miss Centrone (transfer), who will be leaving us to pursue new opportunities and adventures. These teachers have made an outstanding contribution to our school community through their dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to student learning and wellbeing. Their professionalism, creativity, and kindness have inspired both students and colleagues alike, leaving an indelible mark on our school. While we will miss their presence in the classrooms and around our school, we are grateful for the time they have shared with us and the positive impact they have had on so many lives. We wish them every success and happiness in their future endeavours. Thank you for everything you have done for our school. You will always be a valued part of the Girraween family.

"You're off to great places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, so... get on your way!"  
Dr Suess

Thank you to all our students, staff, and families for your ongoing support and contribution to making this year so successful. I look forward to moving into our new school next year and am ready to begin our adventures together. Please stay tuned for your opportunity to explore our new building next year. Our communications team will keep our community in the loop as work progresses.

**Mrs Warner**  
Principal





# Attendance Guidelines

## Late Arrival to School:

Students are expected to arrive at school and be ready to learn by 9:00 am. If your child arrives late for any reason, they must first obtain a late note from the office before joining their class.

## Leaving School Early:

To sign your child out early, please visit the office to receive an early slip. We recommend arranging pick-up times outside of break periods. For safety reasons, parents are not permitted to enter the school grounds during breaks and should collect their child at the designated time.

## Extended Absence:

We encourage families to travel during school holidays. However, if your child needs to travel during the term and will be absent for more than 10 school days, please complete an Application for Extended Leave Form through School Bytes Attendance prior to your travel dates. You will also need to upload a copy of your travel itinerary for the principal's review.

## Planned Absence:

For absences lasting from a full day up to 10 days, please submit your request via School Bytes using the attendance tab - planned absence.

## Absence SMS:

If your child is absent or late to school, you will receive an SMS notification. This message will direct you to School Bytes, where you can address any unexplained absences by selecting the "respond" option. Please note that any absence not explained within 7 days will be recorded as an unjustified absence.

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring our students maintain good attendance!

## Moving Schools

If your child/ren are moving to another school, please send an email to the school advising of your plans. You will need to provide your child's name and class, and the last day of attendance at Girraween Public School. You will also need to provide us with their new school information to ensure that records are kept up to date.

## School Bytes

Parents can easily access important information, including attendance records, and manage their child's attendance effectively via School Bytes..

### Quick Links

- [Access the parent portal](#)
- [School Bytes parent guides](#)





## A Message from the Deputy Principals

### **Congratulations to Year 6**

Congratulations Year 6 on completing your Primary School journey! This time marks the culmination of your primary school years—a chapter filled with learning, friendships, and unforgettable experiences.

As you move on to new adventures in High School, remember that you carry with you the knowledge and values you've gained here at GPS. Embrace challenges with the same determination you've shown throughout Primary School, and continue to demonstrate the qualities of respect, kindness, and resilience that have made you the great students you are. Best wishes for your future endeavours.

### **K-2**

As we approach the end of an incredible year, I want to take a moment to congratulate all our K-2 students for their hard work, growth, and achievements throughout 2025. Our Kindergarten students have made wonderful progress and are now ready to step confidently into Year 1, equipped with the skills and enthusiasm to embrace new challenges. Year 2 students are well prepared and excited for the many opportunities and learning adventures that Year 3 will bring. To celebrate the success of this fantastic year, our students will be enjoying a special Party Day, where we will come together to recognise their efforts and achievements in a fun and memorable way.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. We look forward to another amazing year ahead!

### **Selective High School/Opportunity Class for Placement in 2027**

The application period for opportunity class or selective high school for 2027 entry is now OPEN. Applications close on 20 February 2026.

How do I apply? Apply online at: [shsoc.education.nsw.gov.au](https://shsoc.education.nsw.gov.au)

**Mr McClifty, Mrs Needham and Ms Col**  
Deputy Principals



# Submit your application in 5 easy steps

1

## Register to start your application

Parents and carers enter their own details to register (not their child's).



2

## Verify your email address

Go to your verification email.  
No email? Check your junk folder.



3

## Log in to start

Go to the application website and log in.  
Forgotten your password? Select forgot password to reset it.



4

**Complete the 8 sections** Answer all the application questions. You can save your application and come back to update it and complete the questions. You can log in to your application dashboard and make changes after you have submitted the application.



5

## Select 'submit' to finish your application

Check you have received the confirmation email and application dashboard message. You can return to the application dashboard to update details and documents, as well as send and receive messages.





## Kindergarten

I am writing this with mixed emotions as it will be my last Girraween newsletter item, as I get ready to leave Girraween Public School after nearly 25 years. It has been an absolute privilege to be part of this wonderful community and to watch so many young learners grow and flourish.

As we come to the end of an incredible year, I want to take a moment to celebrate the growth, achievements, and special moments shared by our Kindergarten students. It has been a joy to watch each child develop in confidence, curiosity, and kindness throughout the year.

Our students have made remarkable progress in their learning, from mastering early literacy and numeracy skills to exploring creativity through art, music, and play. The friendships formed and the positive attitudes towards learning are a real highlight and a foundation for continued success in Year 1.

I don't take it lightly that some of the students I have taught over my 25 years have gone on to study to become teachers themselves, thereby influencing the next generation—just as I have had the honour of doing. This legacy is something I hold very close to my heart and am incredibly proud of.

I would also like to sincerely thank my wonderful team of Kindergarten teachers. Their dedication, passion, and hard work have made this year such a positive and enriching experience for our students. It has been a privilege to work alongside such talented and caring colleagues.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your ongoing support and partnership this year. Your involvement has made a significant difference in your child's experience and achievements. Although I am leaving Girraween P.S., I will always cherish the memories and the connections made here.

I look forward to hearing how our young learners will continue to thrive as they move into the next stage of their education. I wish everyone exciting times ahead as our new building and facilities open in early 2026, bringing fantastic opportunities for the Girraween school community.

Wishing you all a safe, joyous holiday season and a happy New Year!

Warm regards,

**Miss Khoury**

Assistant Principal Kindergarten



# Kindergarten



## Year 1

Year 1 have had an amazing, learning journey this year!

This year in English, Year 1 have learned all about the long vowels, learning how to read and write accurately.

During our daily writing sessions, Year 1 have learned how to compose simple, compound and complex sentences.

During our daily mathematics lessons, Year 1 have successfully learned how to work with numbers between 0-999 and beyond!

PE has been a big highlight for Year 1 this year. We have loved learning about athletics skills, games, team work and even dance!

Some other highlights have been our excursion to Sydney Zoo and the Book Week dress up parade. We are really excited for our movie day in Week 10 where we will be watching Zootopia 2!

The Year 1 teachers want to congratulate all our students on a successful year and wish them best of luck in Year 2.

Have fun and stay safe during the Christmas break!

**Mr Vitnell**

Assistant Principal Year 1



# Year 1





## Year 2

What an exciting and rewarding year it has been for our Year 2 students! This year marked a milestone with our very first Swim School program, where students had a fantastic time learning essential water safety skills and improving their swimming confidence in a supportive environment.

Our progress in phonics and spelling has been impressive. The students have mastered some challenging phonemes, including the sounds sh, ci, ti, and the s/si (zh) phonemes. These new sounds have helped to expand their vocabulary and improve their reading and writing skills. We are proud of the great strides our learners have made in this area.

In English, this year we enjoyed exploring both factual and imaginative texts. Students developed their comprehension and creative writing skills by engaging with a variety of stories and informational texts, sparking curiosity and creativity alike.

Looking back on the year, it's wonderful to see how far our Year 2 students have come in all areas of learning. From phonics to physical education, creative arts to factual understanding, each child has grown in confidence and capability.

We didn't just work, we had fun too. One of the fun things was joining in mufti week - it was so cool to wear pyjamas to school!

We thank our families and community for their ongoing support throughout the year. Here's to a well-deserved break and an exciting Year 3 ahead!

**Mr Hutchinson**

Assistant Principal Year 2

## Year 3

What an exciting and successful year it has been for our Year 3 students! They have all transitioned wonderfully from infants into their first year of primary, showing confidence, enthusiasm, and a growing sense of independence.

Throughout the year, students have adapted to new challenges and demonstrated our school's learning dispositions in their daily work—being safe, respectful and active learners. They have also learnt many exciting new things this year, exploring a range of engaging novel studies, expanding their understanding of the world, and building on their knowledge across all learning areas.

A highlight of the year was the Stage 2 excursion with Ranger Jamie, where students enjoyed hands-on learning and outdoor adventures. They also proudly participated in their very first Cross Country and Athletics Carnivals, showing great sportsmanship and school spirit.

We are so proud of the way Year 3 have embraced every opportunity and grown both academically and personally this year. Well done, Year 3!

**Mrs Scerri**

Assistant Principal Year 3





# Year 3



## Year 4

This term, our Year 4 students have been exploring the wonderful world of poetry through the inspiring books *Fire* by Jackie French and *Bindi* by Kirli Saunders. These texts have sparked creativity and reflection as students have been learning about various poetry techniques such as similes, metaphors, rhyme, and rhythm. Through experimenting with these techniques, our young writers have crafted their own poems, expressing their thoughts and emotions in unique and imaginative ways. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they share their work with their classmates.

As the final term of the year unfolds, Year 4 is embracing the opportunity to celebrate a year filled with hard work, memorable experiences, and the strong friendships they have built along the way. The students are proud of their achievements and the progress they have made throughout the year. They are also excitedly looking ahead to the challenges and adventures of Year 5, ready to take the next step in their learning journey. We thank you for your continued support.

### Miss Bakker

Assistant Principal Year 4



## Year 5

Year 5 has been an incredible journey this year, filled with learning, growth, and unforgettable experiences. One of the standout highlights of the year was our amazing camp to Taronga Zoo, where we had the unique opportunity to participate in the overnight ZooSnooz experience.

Spending the night sleeping in tents within the zoo grounds was an exciting adventure. After dark, we explored the zoo with our guides, discovering the nocturnal habits of many fascinating animals and participating in close animal encounters. The excitement didn't end there—the following day, we enjoyed a full day wandering through the zoo, taking in the spectacular seal and bird shows, and learning more about the incredible diversity of species that call Taronga home.

As the year draws to a close, our Year 5 students are eagerly looking forward to moving into Year 6 next year. It will be an important and exciting year, as we prepare for our final year of primary school, ready to embrace new challenges and opportunities ahead.

On behalf of myself and the Year 5 teachers, we wish you all a safe and relaxing break.

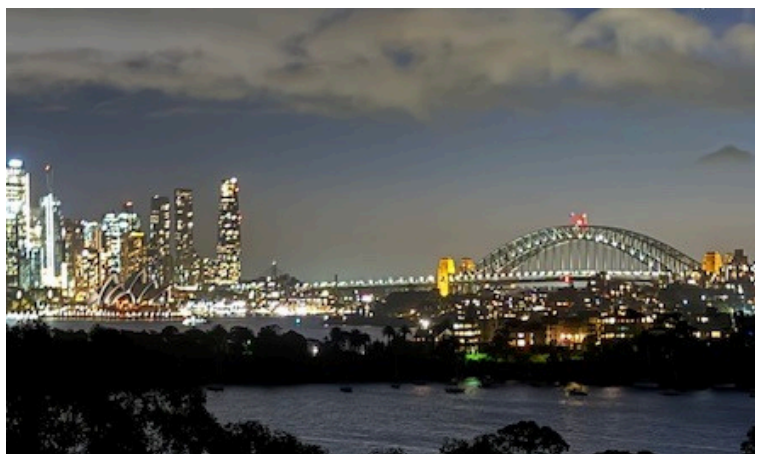
**Mrs Dawes**

Assistant Principal Year 5





## Year 5



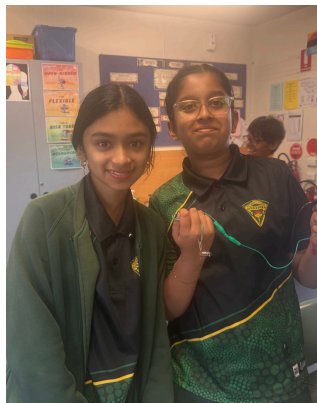
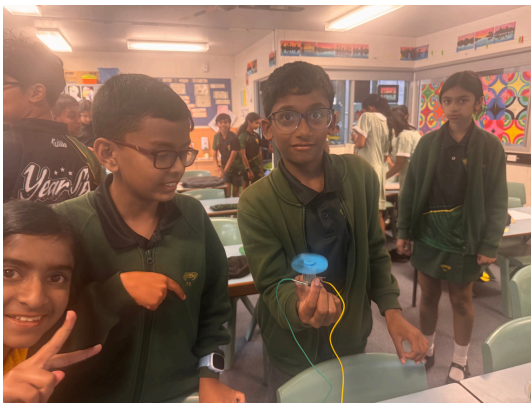
## Year 6

Year 6 are enjoying their last term of primary school before they move on to high school next year. It has been a year of challenges, as students learn to work together effectively, and also work with greater independence.

Two mornings a week, we meet as a grade for a variety of workout routines and a ten minute run. Students are building their stamina and increasing their fitness every week.

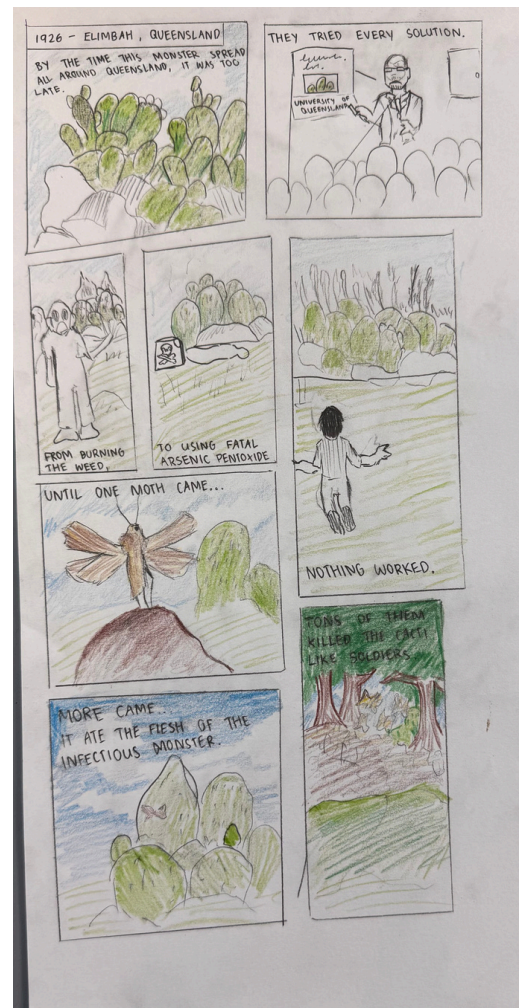
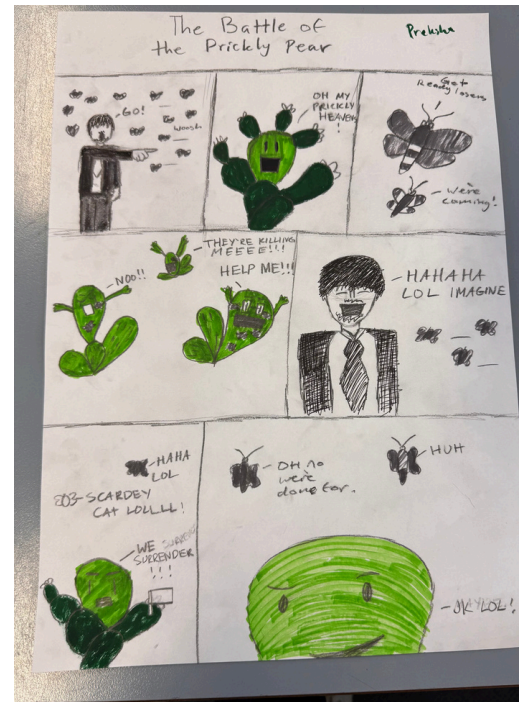
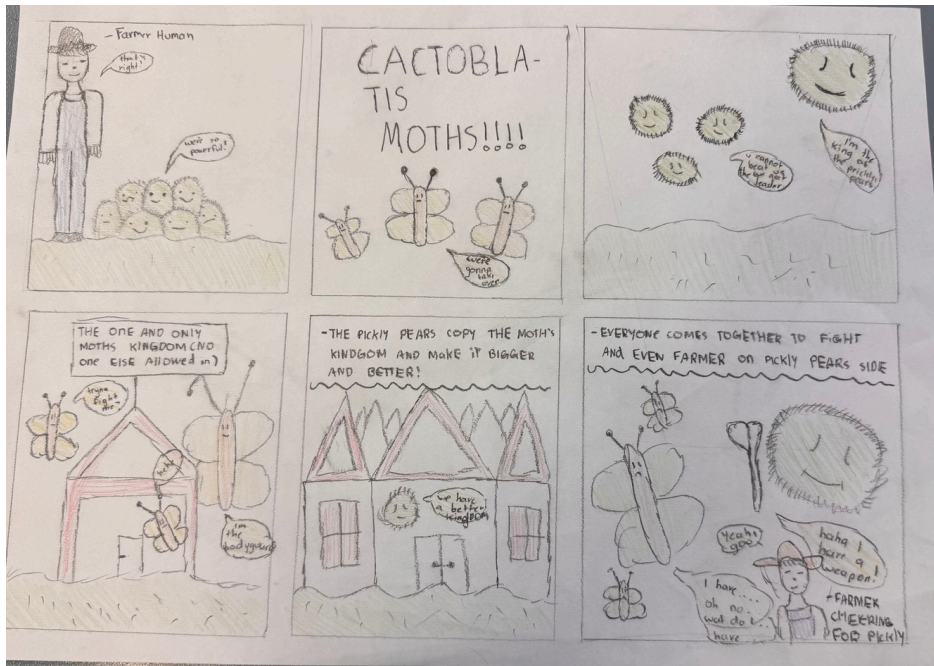


In science we have been learning about simple electrical circuits. 6G enjoyed the challenge of making their light bulb work.



In English, we have been learning about hybrid texts, and 6B created comic strips to explain the story of the arrival of prickly pear into the Australian landscape and the problems it has caused.

# Year 6



The year 6 teachers all wish our students the very best as they leave us for high school and more exciting adventures.

"You're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think." A.A.Milne ❤️

**Mrs Grouse**

Assistant Principal Year 6

## Multi-Stage Classes

As we approach the end of the school year, we want to take a moment to celebrate what an amazing year it has been! Our students have shown incredible enthusiasm, curiosity, and growth throughout the months. From engaging classroom activities to exciting excursions and friendships formed, this year has truly been filled with fun and memorable experiences.

We are proud of all the hard work and achievements of our students and want to thank parents for their ongoing support. As you look forward to next year, we wish every student continued success, happiness, and exciting new learning adventures.

### Ms Robinson

Assistant Principal Multistage





# Community Language and Cultural Awareness

Let us introduce you to Girraween Public School's amazing Community Language and Cultural Awareness teachers. All teachers have university degrees and are trained and recognised by NESA as accredited teachers.

## Mrs Nishitha Athithan

**University qualifications:** Bachelor of Arts (Education) with a Bachelor of Primary Education from Macquarie University.

**Teaching experience:** 5 years

**2025:** Tamil Teacher

**Favourite curriculum area to teach:** Creative and Performing Arts

**Beyond school,** I'm deeply involved in the Tamil Arts Community. As a classically trained Bharatanatyam dancer and drama performer, I love bringing stories and culture to life on stage. Performing at community events is something I truly enjoy and take pride in.

**I love teaching community language** because it allows me to connect with my community on a deeper level. I'm passionate about my culture, and having the opportunity to share and preserve the Tamil language with students makes teaching truly fulfilling. It's genuinely the best job I could ask for.

## Mrs Rupali Dighe

**University qualifications:** Master's degree and a Diploma in Supporting Teaching and Learning (UK)

**Teaching experience:** 20 Years

**2025:** Gujarati Teacher

**Favourite Curriculum area to teach:** All except music

**Interest outside of school:** - Playing Badminton

**What I love about teaching a community language class:** I love my role as a community Language Teacher, as we can enrich and foster our language to the younger generation. It connects students to their heritage and develop the linguistic diversity. I feel so proud and grateful that I am teaching at Girraween Public School, the only school running Gujarati as a part of Department program and I am the only teacher for Gujarati in NSW.



# Community Language and Cultural Awareness

**Lisa Chisari**

**Qualifications:**

- Dip. of Fine Art
- Bachelor of Fine Arts from College of Fine Arts -University of New South Wales
- Master of Teaching- University of Western Sydney
- Approval to teach Primary (k-6)
- Approval to teach High School (Years 7-12)

**Experience:** around 12 years

**2025:** Cultural Awareness Teacher - Aboriginal Darug Language

**Areas of interest:** history, art, science

**Interests outside of school:** being a mum, looking after animals, understanding plants and animals, walking.

**What I love about teaching:** Knowing that we can be the directors of change that can help open the doors of opportunity and the love of life long learning for our students.

**Mrs. Deepa Phirangi**

**University qualifications:**

- Master of Arts in English literature (M.A.)
- Bachelor of Education in Maths and Science (B. Ed.)
- Bachelor of Science in Maths, Physics and Chemistry (B.Sc.)
- Approval to teach Hindi
- Approval to teach Infants (K-2)
- Approval to teach Primary
- Approval to teach High School Physics, Chemistry, Science, Maths (7-12) including
- Mathematics Extensions 1 and 2.

**Teaching experience:** 24 years

**2025:** Telugu Teacher

**Favourite curriculum area to teach** - Mathematics, Languages.

**Interest outside of school:** Cooking, making rangoli designs, fabric and poster painting.

**What I love about teaching a community language class:** Having a flair for languages and growing up learning four languages, I not only acquired cognitive flexibility but also developed an appreciation for how ideas can be expressed in different ways. I enjoy guiding students when comparing grammar between two languages.



# Community Language and Cultural Awareness

**Mrs. Anjali. Dhond**

**University qualifications-**

- Masters of Zoology (M.Sc)
- Bachelor of Teaching (B. Sc)
- Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages - TESOL trained,
- Approval to teach Hindi (Years K-12)
- Approval to teach Primary (Years K-6 )
- Approval to High school (Years 7-12)

**Teaching experience:** 21 years

**2025:** Hindi Teacher

**Favourite curriculum area to teach:** Hindi, Mathematics and Creative Arts

**Interest outside of school:** Playing badminton, Gardening, Bushwalking

**What I love about teaching a community language class:** Teaching Hindi is an incredibly rewarding experience. It is fulfilling to create a welcoming and supportive environment where students feel proud to explore their roots and express themselves. Teaching a language allows me to encourage students and their families to celebrate their identities and promotes multicultural awareness and respect among the broader school community.

**Mrs Yamini Kulkarni**

**University qualifications:**

- Bachelor of Applied Electronics, B.Ed
- Approval to teach High School (Years 7 -12), Approval to teach Primary (Years K - 6),
- Approval to teach Hindi (Years K - 12)

**Teaching experience:** Overall teaching experience 17years

**2025:** Hindi Teacher

**Favourite curriculum area to teach:** Mathematics and Hindi

**Interest outside of school:** Dancing, Singing, Playing Badminton

**What I love about teaching a community language class:** I am passionate about teaching and enjoy working with students to support their learning. Teaching Hindi Community Language allows me to use the language, share my personal experiences, and stay connected to my cultural roots. It also helps me inspire a love for learning Hindi in my students.

# Community Language and Cultural Awareness

**Mrs Ramalakshmi Bommireddipalli**

**University qualifications:** Master of Education- University of Madras

**Teaching experience:** 10 years

**2025:** Tamil teacher

**Favourite curriculum area to teach:** Maths

**Interest outside of school:** Hiking

**What I love about teaching a community language class:** is bridging the cultural divide and creating connections.



## Student Spotlight!

### CONGRATULATIONS ARNAV!

We are proud to share that Arnav in 6G, has recently achieved outstanding results in the Community Language Hindi Poem Competitions. Arnav received First Place in the SAAA South Asian Hindi School competition and Second Place in the IABBV Australia Bal Bharti Vidyalaya competition, both presented in collaboration with the Consulate General of India, Sydney.

Arnav's poem was also recorded and broadcast on Indialink Radio, a wonderful accomplishment and a very proud moment for his family and our school.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to our Community Language Hindi teachers, Mrs Dhond and Mrs Kulkarni, for their ongoing guidance and support in fostering students' passion for the Hindi language.

Congratulations, Arnav, on these impressive achievements. Thank you to our school community for continuing to celebrate and value the rich diversity of languages and cultures at our school.

## Vedant and Aarnav

Congratulations to Arnav and Vedant who have been selected to represent Sydney West in the NSWPSA boys Cricket Championships in 2026. We wish you all the best !





# 培基中文学校



## Blacktown Peiji Chinese School

Pei Ji Chinese Language School is a not-for-profit organisation funded by the NSW Government and has been operating for more than 20 years and running in 8 different schools.

 中文课 (Chinese Class) :

 绘画课 (Drawing Class)

 钢琴课 (Piano Class)

每半小时一对一课程(Half hour one to one class)

 中国舞蹈课 (Dancing Class)

 英文课

 数学课(小学) (K-Y6 Maths Class)

 Thinking Skills 课 (Thinking Skills Class)

 小提琴课 (Violin Class)

每半小时一对一课程(Half hour one to one class)



**Time: Saturday 9:30-3:30**

**Address: Blacktown Girls High School**

**Tel: 0416 646 026**

**Email: [peijich@yahoo.com.au](mailto:peijich@yahoo.com.au)**

**Website: [www.peiji.com.au](http://www.peiji.com.au)**

**WeChat ID: [peijich](#)**



# Einstein Kidz Abacus

## ABACUS CLASSES

**GIRRAWEE PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Tuesday: 3:00 – 4:30 PM**

### Abacus Afterschool Classes Are Coming Your Way!

Expression of Interest are NOW  
Being Accepted !

#### Benefits of Abacus

- ⌚ Speed Calculations
- ⌚ Enhance Visualisation
- ⌚ Strong Academic Foundation
- ⌚ Improved Concentration & Focus



AGE GROUP  
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YEARS OLD

**LEARN MORE**



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