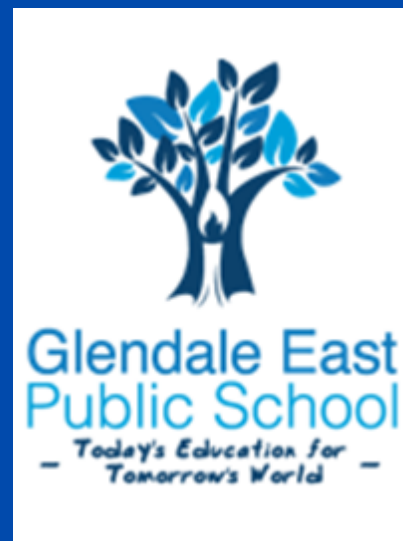




3rd JULY - 2026

Dear Families and Community,

I am finding it difficult to comprehend that I am sitting here at the end of Week 11 writing this newsletter article. My first term as principal at our wonderful school has flown by in a blur. There have been so many wonderful moments across the term that have made my heart sing, and I am truly proud to be part of GEPS.

Staffing Update

Mr Kehoe will be taking leave for Term 3 and most of Term 4. Thank you Mr Kehoe for your dedication to our students, particularly the Tassie Devils who will miss you greatly! Mrs Emma MacInnes will be rejoining our staff Wednesday to Friday, including teaching the Tassie Devils on Thursday and Friday. Miss Bronwyn Dormer will also be joining us on Mondays and Tuesdays in an RFF and intervention role. Both Emma and Bronwyn are familiar faces to our students and we are excited to have them both on board.

NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC Week is a special time each year when we celebrate and recognise the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It offers an important opportunity for our school community to learn more about First Nations cultures and promote respect, unity, and pride. I am so proud of our girls dance group and boys Yidaki group for the joyful way they shared their culture with our whole school community at our special assembly. The girls were also impressive in their performance at Glendale Tech HS earlier in the week at our GEA NAIDOC event. A big thank you to Mrs Lilliss and Mrs Potter for their organisation of this week's events and a special mention to Liam Begnell who shared his amazing knowledge with all of our students through his artefacts and dance workshops. What a beautiful surprise to see our whole student body get up and perform a dance together to end our assembly!

The Gallery Walkabout was another highlight of the week – with every class contributing to its creation. All classes got to visit and walk through the gallery, learning about deadly artists, authors and sportspersons along the way. Thank you to Mrs Potter for her coordination.

Sporting Endeavours

Our soccer and netball teams finally got to take the field and court today for the Dunford Cup gala day, after being rained out last week. Congratulations to all students who played with pride and sportsmanship!

Earlier this term, our boys touch and girls soccer teams participated in the NSW PSSA knockout rounds – behaviour, sportsmanship and effort were once again on display. Congratulations to all students involved for their efforts and contribution to our teams.

Star Struck

While this fabulous event happened week's ago, I would like to take the opportunity to recognise the effort of all students and staff involved. I always get such a sense of pride sitting in the audience, watching our students dance with such joy, seeing all of their hard work pay off. I had the pleasure of watching twice this year, and it was well worth it! A special thanks to Mrs Hamilton for the countless hours she has spent working with both dance groups to ensure they were rehearsed and ready to go.

Reports and Interviews

Reports have been published this week, giving parents information about student progress and achievement across Term 1 and Term 2. Parent/Teacher interviews are coming up in Week 2 of next term. The parent portal booking system opens today. Please use the app to book a 15-minute timeslot with your child's teacher. These interviews will be an opportunity to celebrate your child's achievements as well as discuss any concerns that you might have.

ICAS 2026

This year, students in Years 3-6 will have the opportunity to enter and participate in ICAS across a variety of subjects. It will be available for students in Years 3-6 and will be a parent opt-in and pay activity. ICAS challenges students to test their problem solving and higher order thinking skills. Information has been emailed to parents in Years 3-6 today. If you are interested in entering your child, please visit the parent page: Use this link to log directly into the shop and start registering: <https://shop.icasassessments.com/pages/parent-payment/QGY359>
The log in code needed to access the parent page is: QGY359.

Attendance Matters

Regular school attendance is essential for every student's learning and wellbeing. At GEPS we encourage all students to attend school every day, unless they are unwell. Being at school helps students develop friendships, engage with learning, and build important skills for their future.

Missing school, even occasionally, can impact academic progress and social development. If your child is unable to attend, please notify the school as soon as possible and provide a reason for their absence. Let's work together to support every student's success by making attendance a priority!

Some attendance celebrations:

- We have maintained a whole school attendance rate this year of 90.4% - amazing work GEPS!
- 94 students have an attendance rate of 95% or better for 2026
- 17 of our students have not missed a single day of school all year!
- Congratulations to the Dolphins who have continued to maintain the best attendance rates so far this year

May you and your children enjoy a restful holiday break together.

Our staff will return to school for a day of professional learning on Monday 20 July, with our students returning on Tuesday 21 July. We look forward to seeing their smiling faces then.

Sarah Jardine
Principal

