

GRAHAMVALE NEWSLETTER



Week Three – 30th July 2026

Hi families,

I'm currently on leave due to having arm surgery after sustaining a football injury during the school holidays. I am back at work on Monday and looking forward to seeing everyone. It's not much fun stuck at home by myself and not able to drive!

There is plenty for our community to look forward to this term. Here are just some of the events: Year 2 TwistEd Science excursion, 100 days of school for Foundation students, Student Led Conferences, Year 3 Legoland excursion, Year 5 Bendigo Gold excursion, Book Week dress up day, House Athletics and of course finishing off with our concert at Eastbank!

New school signage

We have been working with the creative team at GV Signmakers to design, create and install our new front school sign. We are very pleased with the outcome and would like to thank Alistair and Nathan who are both parents in our community for their work with us on this project.

Improved school signage has been one of our aims when we set out a 5 year plan for our outside learning environment. Now when people arrive at our school they can see exactly where the front entrance is and know what our school values are. There is more work to be done on our front entrance over the coming weeks – so stay tuned.



Values wall

As well as our front sign, GV Signmakers have installed the graphics for our Values Wall which is in our main building, just near our Wellbeing Room and Room 2.

We are also super happy with the outcome and thank Alistair for his vision in this design. Make sure you pop in and see it for yourself in person as the photo doesn't do it justice!



Turf fence

Our turf fence installation started during the holidays. The fencing contractor needs the area dry to have machinery come in on the paddock side to help with the rest of the install. We are hoping this can be finished over the next month if the weather stays fine.



Bunnings BBQ

Thank you to our Parents Club who organised our Bunnings BBQ last Sunday. It was great to see so many parent volunteers complete a shift on the stall. Thank you also to our community members who came out to buy a snag or encouraged friends and family to do the same.

A massive thank you to TheirCare who donated all the sausages, bread and sauce for this fundraiser!! This donation and the time given up by our parents made the event a huge success! Thank you also to our families who donated other items.



Pratt Foundation donation

We are extremely grateful for the generous donation of \$2000 from the Pratt Foundation. Richard Pratt attended school at Grahamvale PS as a student and also donated towards the Digger James playground when it was developed. This donation is the beginning of an ongoing partnership between GPS and the Pratt Foundation into the future. The yearly donation will be used to subsidise every child's Year 5 Sovereign Hill camp costs. The Year 5 camp is our most expensive camp offered, being over \$500 per student. Families who have paid for their Year 5 child's camp in full will receive a refund for the subsidy total in the near future. Families paying in instalments will have their instalments altered.



Term 3 Assembly dates

- Friday 7th August
- Friday 14th August
- Friday 21st August
- Friday 4th September
- Friday 11th September



Student Attendance

To help keep all students safe and meet Victorian Government requirements, schools are required to record student attendance **twice each day** and keep a record of the reason for every absence.

If your child is absent, please notify the school via Compass or by phoning the school office as soon as possible and provide the reason for their absence. If we have not received a reason, a member of our staff will contact you to follow up.

Please note that **late arrivals and early departures are recorded as half-day absences** and are reflected in your child's attendance record. Where possible, we encourage students to arrive on time and remain at school for the full day to maximise their learning opportunities.

To ensure our attendance records are accurate, we ask families to use the Victorian Government school attendance reasons when notifying the school of an absence (e.g. illness, medical appointment, family holiday or other approved reasons).

Your support in helping us maintain accurate attendance records and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all students is very important. When entering your child's absence on Compass please refer to the below attendance codes.

Absence reporting

All accountable student absences are monitored and reported by the department to determine student, school, region, and state attendance rates.

Specifically, codes which are counted as absences are:

Code	Description
200	Medical or illness
205	Healthcare appointment, off-site
208	School refusal or school can't
210	Social services or justice
211	Bereavement
212	Sorry Business
300	Truancy, off-site
401	Suspension, off-site
500	Unexplained
804	Extended family holiday
805	Religious or cultural observance
806	Parent choice, school unapproved
807	Parent choice, school approved

Unapproved Absences

When reviewing attendance, **absences of most concern are unapproved absences**.

These can indicate the need for additional support to address a student's engagement at school.

Unapproved absences are those coded:

Code	Description
300	Truancy, off-site
500	Unexplained
806	Parent choice, school unapproved



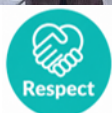
Staff vs Students soccer match

Last week our Year 4 students organised themselves into four teams to rotate onto the soccer pitch against our staff. There were lots of laughs had by all and it was great to see other year levels supporting both the students and staff. It was a showcase of what student voice looks like. We hope to see a basketball or netball game taking place soon!



Values Awards

Congratulations to these students who received a Values Awards for the past fortnight!



House points

In 4th place is **Doyle** House on 585 points.

In 3rd place is **McDermott** House with 635 points.

In 2nd place is **James** House with 690 points

In 1st place is **Hick** House with 725 points.

Congratulations to **Hick** House!

Dates to Remember

July	Wednesday 29	TwistEd Science - Year 2
August	Tuesday 4	Pupil Free Day - Student Led Conferences (8:45am-2:30pm)
	Wednesday 5	Student Led Conferences (3:30pm-6:30pm)
	Wednesday 12	Foundation 100 days of school
	Thursday 13	Author Visit Incursion
	Friday 14	House Athletics Day - McEwen Reserve
	Wednesday 19	House Lunch
	Thursday 20	Legoland - Year 3
	Thursday 27	Year 5 Bendigo excursion
	Friday 28	Book Week Dress Up Day
September	Friday 4	Father's Day Stall
	Thursday 17	School Concert - Eastbank
	Friday 18	Last Day Term 3 - 2:20pm dismissal - Out of Uniform day
October	Monday 5	First Day Term 4
	Tuesday 6	Interschool Aths - Year 6
	Wednesday 7	Interschool Aths - Year 5
	Thursday 8	Interschool Aths - Year 4
	Friday 9	Interschool Aths - Year 3
	Monday 12	Division Athletics
	Thursday 15	Fete! 5pm-8pm @ Congupna Football oval
	Mon 19 Tue 20 Wed 21	Year 5 Camp – Sovereign Hill Ballarat
	Wed 28 Thu 29 Fri 30	Year 3 Camp – Camp Kookaburra
November	Monday 2	Pupil Free Day
	Tuesday 3	Public Holiday - Melbourne Cup
	Mon 9 Tue 10 Wed 11	Year 6 Camp - Melbourne
	Thursday 5	Year 1 & 2 Late Stay/Sleepover
	Wed 11 Thu 12 Fri 13	Year 4 Camp - Phillip Island
	Monday 16	Year 6 Graduation Photo
	Friday 27	Colour Run
December	Thursday 3	2027 Student Leaders Assembly
	Tuesday 8	Statewide Transition Day
	Friday 11	Final Assembly
		Year 5 Aspirations Day at GSSC
	Tuesday 15	Year 6 Graduation
	Friday 18	Last day Term 4 - 1:20pm dismissal

