

DATES TO REMEMBER

Fri 13th Feb
Room 12 Assembly

Tues 17th Feb
House Swimming Carnival

Fri 27th Feb
Room 16 Assembly

Mon 2nd Mar
Labour Day Public Holiday



From the Principal

Dear Parents, Guardians and Community



Welcome back to 2026! We have had a wonderful start to the new school year with students settling into their classroom routines, being focused on their learning and making new friends. A warm welcome to the new families how have joined our Yakamia community.



We also welcomed three new teachers to our school:

Ms Ali Wright (Year 1)
Miss Lucy Wareing (Year 1)
and Miss Maddy Gleeson (Year 6).

We have loved getting to know our new students, families and staff this week and are looking forward to you being part of our school.

This year we have made a **change to our bell structure** to give students more time to eat and play at recess. After feedback from students about playtimes and discussions with staff and the School Board, we now have 10 minutes designated eating time at the beginning of recess, where students in their blocks sit and eat together, followed by 20 minutes of play.

New Bell Times

Classes open:	8:30am
Period 1:	8:50am - 9:44am
Period 2:	9:44am - 10:38
RECESS:	10:38am - 10:48am (10mins eating time)
	10:48am - 11:08am (play)
Period 3:	11:08am - 12:02pm
Period 4:	12:02pm - 12:56pm
LUNCH:	12:56pm - 1:06pm (10mins eating time)
	1:06pm - 1:36pm (play)
Period 5:	1:36pm - 2:16pm
Period 6:	2:16pm - 3:10pm

This change focuses on ensuring students have time to eat instead of rushing off to play and forgetting to eat. Eating a recess snack is important for optimal brain function and being able to have sustained energy to make it through the day.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Principal

Gemma Larham

Deputy Principals

Tristan Mackenzie
Simone Barndon

Online Lunch Orders

Wed/Thur/Fri
www.quickcliq.com.au

Breakfast Club

Mon - Thurs 8am - 8:30am

Uniform Shop Hours

Alternate Fridays on even weeks

8.30am - 9am

EFTPOS available

uniforms.yakamia.pc@gmail.com

Ph 9892 5500

Email yakamia.ps@education.wa.edu.au

Website www.yakamiaps.wa.edu.au

School Vision: Belong Believe Become—Success for all students

Continued:

At Yakamia we have a fabulous **P&C committee**, run by parent volunteers. The P&C is made up of parents who work together and support our school by running fun activities for our students and raising money for essential items to make our school a great place for all students. Previous fundraising has gone towards new playgrounds, iPads, computers, outdoor play equipment, reading books, and nature play areas.

The P&C need new members for 2026. The AGM will be held on 18 February at 3:30pm in the staffroom. If you would like to be able to actively support our student and school, please come along to the AGM. We love to see families being part of our school and the P&C.

The **Year 4 - 6 House Swimming Carnival** will be held on Tuesday 17 February. Notes were sent home today and those who qualify will attend the carnival. We look forward to seeing you cheer on our swimmers at this event.

Connect is our school online system we use to communicate with families. The newsletter is published fortnightly in the whole school space and is a great resource to read to stay connected to our school and know what is happening or what events are coming up.



Each class also has a Connect page which teachers use to communicate regularly with parents about their class. Please read these messages to support your child in their learning. If you are having any problems with Connect please see the office staff for assistance.

In Weeks 3 and 4 teachers will be holding **Class Parent Meetings** to introduce themselves to families and to provide information on classroom expectations and routines. Please keep an eye out of Connect messages from your child's teacher regarding the day and time of the meeting.

Thank you to all families who paid their **School Contributions** in 2025, it was very much appreciated! Each year we ask for parents to pay School Contributions to support their child's education. The contributions for each child are: Pre Primary to Year 6 - \$60

Kindergarten - \$50

This payment helps provide additional resources for our students so we are able to provide books, paper, stationery and supplies for Science and Art.

Payments can be made by cash, Eftpos, Centrepay or Direct Deposit (Acc Name: Yakamia Primary School; BSB: 016-510, A/C: 340823089). Payment plans can be organised with the school's Manager of Corporate Services, Mrs Robin Smith. Thank you for your support in making these payments.



At Yakamia PS we have a **School Chaplain**, Glenn Richardson, who supports our students, staff and parents in the area of wellbeing and engagement. Glenn is at our school on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays each week. Glenn runs a number of programs to support student wellbeing and works in collaboration with teaching and administration staff to ensure our students' wellbeing needs are met. The school chaplaincy service is non-compulsory for students, so if you do not wish for your child to work with the School Chaplain, please let us know in writing so we can meet your request.

Continued:

We have recently updated our **Attendance Policy** to align with the Department of Education's focus on improving attendance in our schools. Yakamia Primary school is committed to monitoring, supporting and managing student attendance to maximise the opportunities for all students to learn and strive to achieve their full potential each day at school.

- We:**
- Are committed to promoting the key message 'everyday counts'.
 - Are committed to working together to monitor, communicate and implement strategies to improve student attendance.
 - Believe attendance at school is the responsibility of everyone in the community.
 - Know regular attendance supports the development of social-emotional, cognitive and physical developmental domains of each student.
 - Believe attendance below 90%, can place students at risk.



85% (or above) student attendance is required for Good Standing, and to attend excursions, interschool events, additional activities or camps. If a child's attendance is below 85% they will no longer have Good Standing and the Admin team will work with families to implement an attendance plan to improve attendance and regain Good Standing.

It is important that parents and carers promote and provide organisation support to their child to allow them to attend school and participate each day at school. If your child is away for a valid reason, please notify the school and provide a reason for every absence. This can be done via the pink slip in the office or classroom, email: yakamia.ps@education, phone or via Compass link sent if unexplained absence is noted in the morning roll.

Please inform the school in advance of cultural or extended absences. Vacations during the school term need to be approved by the Principal after a discussion with the Parent. Vacations not approved are classed as unauthorised.

Please inform the school of any communicable diseases if the child is sick. The Principal may request a medical certificate for repeated or extended periods of illness.

As mentioned above, we now have a pink slip in the office and classrooms where a parent can record the an absence and post it in the box.

A shared understanding and commitment from students, staff, and parents/carers is essential to fostering strong attendance habits and ensuring our students thrive in their learning, development and wellbeing. Thank you for your support and ensuring your children attend school regularly.

Continued:

As the new school year commences, staff across the school have a focus on our **PBS Behaviour Expectations** of RESPECT YPS - Yourself, People, School. A copy of our PBS Expected Behaviours can be found in the newsletter.

As a PBS school, all teachers explicitly teach the expected behaviours on our matrix to students, so they understand what is expected of them. Students who are demonstrating these behaviours are rewarded with 'Turtle Tickets'. The Turtle Tickets earned go towards a whole school reward for positive behaviour being demonstrated. Our first mini-target is 3000 Turtle Tickets.

Reading Breakfast Club will commence Monday 9 February, Week 2, in the Art Room Block 3. Our Reading Breakfast Club is a great opportunity for students to read to an adult in the morning and enjoy a healthy and delicious breakfast. It runs from 8.00am - 8.30am Monday to Thursday each week. We are also looking for volunteers to help support this program by either listening to, reading to or helping with the preparation of breakfast. If you are able to help, even if it is only one day a week or fortnight, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the front office if you are able to assist.

The **Year 4 - 6 House Swimming Carnival** will be held on Tuesday 17 February. Notes were sent home today and those who qualify will attend the carnival. We look forward to seeing you cheer on our swimmers at this event.

A reminder that **in Term 1 students must wear a green bucket or broad-brimmed hat** during outside play time. Please ensure your child has a hat or they will have to stay in the shade. Hats are available for purchase from the uniform shop for \$15.

Our **first Assembly** this year will be hosted by The Year 6 students from Room 12 on Friday 13 February. Our Waste Warriors and House Captains will be receiving their badges at this Assembly. All families are welcome and we look forward to seeing you at this event.

**Kind regards
Gemma Larham
Principal**



School Vision: Belong Believe Become—Success for all students

School News

Science News

Last term in Science, we had a beautiful **Spiny Leaf Insect** living in our classroom. Spiny Leaf Insects belong to the order Phasmids and are a type of stick insect.

Over the holidays she loved the warmer weather and grew so much. One morning, Mrs Tierney was very excited to see that she had laid some eggs. She kept laying eggs and there are now over fifty! They are lovely to look at and look a bit like lupin seeds but much smaller.

Interestingly, spiny leaf insects can reproduce on their own, this means that if the eggs hatch they will all be female and clones of the mother. If you look at the photo, the eggs at the bottom were all laid by our spiny leaf insect and they are quite uniform in size and colouring. The eggs at the top were laid by another spiny leaf insect and have more variation - we think there was a male involved with these eggs.

If you look closely at the picture of the spiny leaf insect you can just see an egg sitting at the end of her abdomen! If you Google, "spiny leaf insect David Attenborough", there is a great little clip about them. We are crossing fingers the eggs will hatch. It can take up to

THREE YEARS (!)

so this could be a long-term project.



School News

Awesome Art!

Mrs Padfield showed us these fantastic drawings of our admin. office last year's Year 4s did. We couldn't pin them up, because it was the end of term, so the next best thing was to pop them in the first newsletter of the year, so everyone can see them!



P&C News

Your School P&C Needs YOU!

Join the Yakamia Primary School P&C in 2026!

We're calling on the next group of school community legends to join our P&C team!



YAKAMIA PS P+C AGM DETAILS:

**OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY (WEEK 3) AT 3:30PM IN
THE YAKAMIA PRIMARY SCHOOL STAFF ROOM**

All new members are warmly welcome to attend and nominate.

Several executive positions will be vacant and open for nomination.

Can't commit to an executive role? No worries!

Join as a general member and help out when you can — every bit counts.

Come along to the AGM, ask questions, and see what we're about. We have a fantastic core group ready to mentor and support new members keen to get involved

Nominate here: <https://form.jotform.com/260331888201049>



Our P&C works to:

- Foster cooperation between parents, teachers, students, and the wider community.
- Support the school through fundraising and volunteering . Recent fundraising events have included Easter raffles, colour runs, cake stalls, and other additional raffles .
- Run the Yakamia School Uniform Shop.

We're excited for what 2026 will bring!

Kind regards

Courtney Stenhouse

P&C Secretary

P&C UNIFORM SHOP



OPENING HOURS:
Assembly Fridays
8:30am - 9am

Email: uniforms.yakamia.pc@gmail.com
Online orders are packed weekly on
Wednesday afternoon.





Yakamia P & C (general):

yakamia.pc@gmail.com

Uniform Coordinator:

uniforms.yakamia.pc@gmail.com

**Follow Yakamia
Primary School P&C
on Facebook for all
of our latest news**



School Vision: Belong Believe Become — Success for all students

School News



Telethon Birthday Boxes

Do you have a child celebrating a birthday soon? Want to let them celebrate at school, but a bit short on time? Our Telethon Ambassadors are here to help!

For just \$25, the Ambassadors will deliver a Birthday Box to your child’s class on the morning of their celebration.

Boxes can include either a cupcake for each child in the class or a jelly cup each.

If you would like to order a Birthday Box for your child, please complete the form which can be collected at the office and return it to school with payment at least 5 days before your child’s birthday.

Thank you for supporting Telethon 2025!



February Birthdays	
5th	Summer T
8th	Stormy V
9th	Alexia K
10th	Mason P & Maisyn W
12th	Bayla C & Eve N
14th	Ebony B & Lily H
17th	Mya L
19th	Adam T
20th	Clara F
21st	Jaliya G & Riley H
22nd	Florinah G, Toby U & Logan W
24th	Rylie B & Kobe W
25th	Hudson B & Patrick L
26th	Cooper B, Paige M & Adam Y
27th	Odin M, Rachel U, Ruby U & Harper W
28th	Charlie R & Sadie W

Reading & Breakfast Club Volunteering

We are looking for volunteer for our Reading & Breakfast Club. It runs Mondays to Thursdays each week from roughly 8:00am - 8:45am.

Come and be part of the Yakamia Primary School Community and help give students a great start to their day.

Please see the office or Mrs Tierney for details.



Community Notices

JACOB'S SQUAD

8km COMMUNITY WALK
SATURDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2026
STARTS 10AM
MIDDLETON BEACH TO EMU POINT RETURN

WEAR BRIGHT COLOURS TO CELEBRATE JACOB

Sausage Sizzle
 Spot Prizes
 Raffle

WALK FOR JACOB

To Register



EARLY BOOKING PRICES
 BOOK BY 1ST FEBRUARY
\$15 PER PERSON
\$50 PER FAMILY OF 4

Proudly Supporting
 UP ALL NIGHT

https://www.trybooking.com/DJWZ

albany contemporary
dance 
 the dance alternative

Youth professional dance tuition

Ballet, Lyrical/Contemporary, AcroDance, Hip Hop, Tap & Musical Theatre. Catering for recreational and serious dancers thinking towards their future. Certificates in Dance available.
STARTS AT \$150/TERM



Adults - every body

Every adult is invited to join us whether you have danced before or not. We have ballet, pointe, contemporary and tap at your level.
\$20 FOR A CASUAL CLASS



PERFORM WITH US!

Little Legs from 2 yrs

Little Dancers can start at 2yrs old, then they can progress through our grades in different genres, choosing their favourite and getting to perform in our annual concert!
STARTS AT \$105/TERM



 albanycontemporarydance.com.au
 syc: 0428 639 461

Albany Community Disability Expo



Retrovision Stadium
 156 Lockyer Ave, Albany

Wed 18 Feb 2026
 10am - 1pm

FREE coffee for the first 100 people

Meet local disability providers who can answer your questions

SPONSORED BY



Yakamia Junior Soccer Club

Season starts Term 2 - 2026
Nominations Close 25/02/2026

Fees for 2026	U7	U8 to U11	U12 to U19
Kids Sports Available	\$100	\$135	\$155
Girls playing both	U7	U8 to U11	
Girls comp and Mixed	\$130	\$175	

Register as soon as possible via email
yakamiasoccerclub@gmail.com

Include your child's
 Name
 Date of Birth
 Gender



Expression of Interest 2026

Term Planner



Yakamia Primary School TERM ONE 2026 STUDENT PLANNER

Wk	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2 Feb Students' Commence	3	4	5	6 Newsletter
2	9 Feb	10	11	12	13 Rm 12 Assembly Kindy attend
3	16 Feb Class Parent Mtgs (Wks3/4)	17 House Swimming Carnival Yr 4-6	18 P&C AGM – 3:30pm in the staffroom. All parents welcome	19	20 Semester 1 Census Newsletter
4	23 Feb Class Parent Mtgs (Wks3/4)	24	25	26 School Board Mtg 4pm	27 Rm 16 Assembly Kindy attend
5	2 March Labour Day Public Holiday	3	4	5	6 Yr 4-6 Cricket Carnival TBC Newsletter
6	9 March	10	11 NAPLAN Yr 3-5 →	12 Yr 6 Solar Car Challenge	13 Rm 11 Assembly Kindy attend
7	16 March NAPLAN →	17	18 Harmony Day (PP-6)	19 Kindy Harmony Day & Ride 2 School Day	20 Ride 2 School Day → Newsletter
8	23 March	24 <i>Easter Raffle tickets sent home</i>	25	26 Div 1 Interschool Swimming Carnival School Board Mtg 4pm	27 Rm 15 Assembly Kindy attend
9	30 March Fun Run notes home	31 9am: ECE Easter Hat Parade	1 April Easter Raffle 9am	2 Newsletter	3 Good Friday

School Vision: *Belong Believe Become—Success for all students*