



## GOROKAN PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Gorokan Public School, we believe that a great start to school ensures a fulfilling and enjoyable education.

**Kindergarten Orientation** - A further warm welcome is extended to our new families who are participating in the Kindergarten transition program. High attendance has been achieved over the past few weeks, supporting our aim, which is to transition the children to school smoothly. Today's program included a presentation by Myree Kent, our talented Instructional Leader, on the Best Start Kindergarten assessment program. This will be the last session for the term until the program resumes on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October. I look forward to addressing the attendees at the next meeting.

**NAPLAN (National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) Results** - NAPLAN is an annual assessment for all Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. NAPLAN is a skills test assessing accumulated literacy and numeracy skills from when students start school in Kindergarten. All Year 3 and 5 parents and carers will receive their child/ren's results in the coming weeks and I will present a summary of the school's overall performance at the next P&C meeting. I would like to extend an invitation to all interested parents and carers to attend. Further information on NAPLAN can be obtained from the school or from the NAPLAN website – [www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au). I commend our students on their individual efforts and achievements.

**Regional Spelling Bee Final** - Best wishes are extended to Isaac N - 3C, Deaken P - 4L, Bella Mc - 4/5R and Xavier K - 6B who will represent our school in the Regional Spelling Bee Final that will be held tomorrow at Warnervale Public School.

**Kindi Farm** – Recently, Gorokan Public School played host to Kindi Farm. This great experience engaged our Kindergarten students, helping them to achieve curriculum outcomes. The children experienced a fun and safe introduction to farm animals, with each student having a hands-on experience. It was great to see the students enjoying this great opportunity for active learning.

**Planning Week** - This week the teachers have been working in their stage groups to collaboratively plan explicit and systematic delivery of curriculum and extracurricular programs for the term ahead. The library, science and music programs are suspended for this week to allow for the economical provision of

this valuable professional collaboration to occur. Topics covered included the monitoring of student progress using departmental software, collaborative programming, formative assessment, differentiation for learning, student transition procedures and the revised anti-bullying plan for 2018/2019.

**The Partners in Learning Parent Feedback Survey** -

This term, our school will be participating in the *Partners in Learning* parent survey, another part of the *Tell Them From Me* suite of surveys. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement. Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school to make informed improvements. The survey is conducted entirely online. The survey will typically take 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be accessible between 12<sup>th</sup> September and 28<sup>th</sup> September. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, however, your responses are very much appreciated.

Please use the following link or QR code to participate:

<https://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/8jr7y>



**Central Coast Chess Competition** - Our talented chess team will have another opportunity to use their great skills tomorrow when they compete in the Central Coast Chess Competition at Wyong High School. Best of luck to you all.

Together we can make a difference.

*Jermond Zammit*

Principal

### **Dates to Remember**

Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Central Coast Chess Competition – Wyong High School
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	STEAM Showcase – 3:30pm, School Hall
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Year 3 Excursion – Lutanda, Toukley
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Stage 3 Excursion - Bathurst
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Payment due - Year 1 Reptile Park Excursion Last day of Term 3
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Students & staff return - first day Term 4
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Kindy 2019 Transition 4 – 9:30am – 11am

### **Kindergarten Supervisor – Mrs T Coote**

**Class Awards** - **KL:** Julian, Bailee, **KFL:** Oliver, Angelina, **KC:** Amelia, Summer, **KE:** Elliot, Lucas, **KDT:** Matthew, Tyson.

**Reading Eggs and Mathletics** - Our school is proud to be able to continue to supplement homework with subscriptions to both **Reading Eggs and Mathletics** throughout the year for your child. Please continue to utilise these valuable online educational resources to compliment your child's homework activities. If you need another copy of your child's passwords for either resource or have any questions please make a time to see your child's teacher.

**Kindergarten Home Reading** - We thank our parents who have continued to encourage their child to participate in home reading and sight word practise on a daily basis throughout year. It is important to ensure that your child continues to read daily and practice their sight word knowledge, as it helps support the strategies they are learning in class. If you need to discuss your child's homework, or have any questions please make a time to see your child's teacher.

**STEAM Projects** - Our Kindergarten classes have been very busy making toys from recyclable materials throughout this term. If you have any odd socks and buttons at home, KL – Mrs Lansdowne's class, require some more for their puppet making STEAM Project and would appreciate them very much. Our K-6 STEAM Showcase will be held on Thursday, Week 9 of this Term at 3:30pm in the hall.

### **Stage 1 Supervisor – Mrs C Henderson**

**Home Reading** - Students have been very conscientious in completing their home reading logs each week. Students should be bringing home books which they are able to read with minimal support.

The books that we send home have been carefully written to help early readers consolidate reading skills. The illustrations in the books provide meaningful support to early readers and should always be visible for children while they read. The illustrations allow students to gather understanding of the story, to support their reading, while they read. If you would like more information about how to support your child's reading at home, please feel free to make a time to chat with your child's teacher. We are always happy to help!

**Reptile Park Excursion Year 1** - There are two and a half weeks left to finalise payment for our Year 1 Reptile Park excursion next term. Thank you to the parents and carers who have already completed their payment. The cost is \$32.00 which must be paid by **Week 10, Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September**. If you require a new note for this excursion please contact the school office as soon as possible.

**STEAM Showcase** - Our STEAM showcase is on next Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September from 3:30pm. Students have been really engaged and are very excited to be displaying their STEAM projects in the hall for all family and friends to view. We hope to see you there!

### **Stage 2 Supervisor – Mrs R Ranse**

**Year 3 Excursion** - A reminder that the payment of \$50.00 for our Year 3 excursion is due this Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> September. This action-packed excursion is to Lutanda Outdoor Recreation Centre in Toukley on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September. Please see the school office if you need another permission note.

**Absent Notes** - If your child has been away from school, please send in a note to your child's teacher on their return. It is a legal requirement that notes are received within 7 days of a student's absence. The note must state the dates your child was absent and the reason for the absence. If your child will be absent for more than two days please contact the school by phone or via the school app to let us know.

### **Stage 3 Supervisor – Mrs G Farrell**

**Stage 3 Bathurst Excursion** - Final numbers have been sent through to the tour company. Any cancellations cannot be guaranteed a refund and are subject to the supplier's terms and conditions. Accommodation has been booked at Bathurst Goldfields. Students will need to bring sleeping bags/sheets and a towel with them. Bottom sheet, pillow and blanket is supplied for students. A note went home last week detailing the requirements for the camp. If your child does not have one as yet, please contact the school or your child's teacher. A note regarding the itinerary went home this week.

**Cyberbullying** - The NSW Office of the eSafety Commissioner, in collaboration with the NSW Department of Education, held a free 40 minute virtual classroom session on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September for all NSW public schools. Our Stage 3 students attended this session which focused on cyberbullying. This was a very informative session and is an essential part of social media etiquette.



**2019 High School Applications** - Any new students to Gorokan Public School will need to complete an enrolment form for high school. Forms can be collected from the local high schools.

**School News**

**Kindergarten Transition** - Our Kindergarten transition program continued today with the third of six sessions to allow your child to experience 'big school' before they start Kindergarten in 2019. You and your child are invited to attend the following dates, which will continue for three more weeks in Term 4:

<b>Transition 4</b> Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October 9:30am - 11:00am	Children – Classroom activities Parents – Meet our Principal, Mr Zammit, and key staff in the hall
<b>Transition 5</b> Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 9:30am - 11:00am	Children – Classroom activities Parents – Presentation in the hall, <i>Kindergarten: The first Year</i>
<b>Transition 6</b> Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 9:30am - 11:00am	Children – Classroom activities Parents – Meet members of our school community organisations in the hall

If you haven't already RSVP'd, please let the school know if you and your child will be attending.

Kindergarten! ... here I come!



**Plastic Bottle Competition** – Thank you to all those who have supported our plastic bottle competition. The competition ends this Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> September and the winning class will be announced at the end of term. Good luck!

**Persistence Winners** – Congratulations to the following students who were acknowledged for their demonstrated persistence at Friday's whole school assembly - K-2: Malekhai, Aleyce, Katalina, Blayden, Jason, Hunter, Angelina, Jaylan, Jaxon, Phoenix, Charlize, Olivia, Tyler, Hope, Bailey, Matilda, Miley, Olivia, Sophia, Chantel, Amelia, Lyla, Katiarah, Cayden, Malaqui, Justin. 3-6: Noah, Ryder, Kirsty, Cooper, Thomas, Aimee, Ellyse, Cody, Blake, Amelia-Rose, Lorrelai, Tyne, Hannah, Tenika, Monique, Lucas, Isabel, Maddison, Kayelyn, Jacob, Sophia, Xander.

**Canteen Volunteer**  
*Please return to the office*

I, \_\_\_\_\_

Would like to help in the canteen on  
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri (*please circle*)

Mobile no: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sport News**

**Sydney North Athletics** - Good luck and our best wishes to two of our students, Amarli W and Chloe C, who will be competing in discus next Monday at Olympic Park, Sydney.

**Special Swimming Scheme** - We are booked in for swimming lessons in Weeks 7 and 8 of Term 4. This is a great opportunity for your child to learn how to swim and survive in the water. Notes have gone out and a \$10 deposit is needed ASAP. The total cost of \$48 is for transport and pool entry. The ten swimming lessons are free. Please make sure you take advantage of this program, especially if your child is a non or weak swimmer. All Year 2 and 3 students should participate in this worthwhile water safety program.



## Parenting Ideas

### Is your child's brain ready for the online playgrounds?

by Martine Oglethorpe

Every week I spend time with teachers, students and parents helping them understand technology and the digital world, and present strategies to manage devices at home and at school. Ultimately, I want to ensure they are kept safe online and have the ability to thrive in this world, whilst reaping the many benefits the technology has to offer.

I am certainly not against technology, against social media or against video games. In fact, I see great benefits to incorporating them into our lives and the lives of our children. What I am against however, is the handing over of the devices with full access to the internet when there is little understanding of the potential harm and little to no safeguards.

We have all heard the stories, seen the headlines and clicked on the alarming clickbait. Stories of grooming where the young and vulnerable are lured away from their screens and in to the clutches of some paedophile. Yes those stories are out there, and while still a small minority of cases, the consequences are devastating. And aside from the grooming, there is the exposure to so much inappropriate, pornographic content that young people are being inadvertently sent via social networks and gaming platforms. Recent reports of a young girl finding herself in a sex chat room in the kids gaming platform Roblox is just one of mention.

What happens when kids find themselves in dangerous or perverted circumstances is usually the result of playing in playgrounds that they are just not cognitively and socially and emotionally developed enough to handle. When we place a child in an adult space, where adults are hanging out, (many of whom don't have their best interests at heart), we are asking them to make decisions and judgements and think in the critical ways that they are simply not equipped for.

In my student sessions we discuss how easy it is to be someone else online and how we can better arm ourselves with the skills and thinking to make accurate judgements about someone's identity. When I show them a picture of a made-up avatar with a picture of Justin Bieber and I ask them to tell me how they would know if he was the real deal, I get the same responses every time. Every single time from kids as young as 8 right through to those hitting their teens, I am met with suggestions such as "I would just ask him the name of his first song he wrote, not the one he released as not many people would know that". Or "I would ask him the name of his first pet?" Or "I would ask him things that only really hard-core fans would know and ask him to tell me really quickly before he had time to google it".

Every week when I do this exercise I am reminded that they are just not there yet. Their brain development is just not at a point where it can accurately make these decisions and come to the right conclusions. It isn't because they are naïve, or

stupid, it is simply because they haven't been on this earth long enough, and their brain has not had the chance to grow and learn and think in ways that are beyond what we are expecting of them.

Now, as I said I am not against kids playing in some of these places but it must be done with absolute supervision while they are young. That means finding out about the platform they are wanting to hang out in. Finding out how you can make it as safe as you possibly can. Find out what settings to put in place and what 3rd party software you may need to look at to keep things under control and away from curious eyes.

If you are deciding to allow your child to have a device, search the internet, open a social media account or to play an online game, make sure that while you must certainly be teaching them the skills and thinking they will need, you cannot rely on that teaching alone. So, check age guidelines and if you think your child can manage and you are prepared to put in the time with them, then you must:

**Play that game:** have a go with at playing that game even if it is driving you crazy. You may just have some fun, enjoy some bonding and most importantly be able to have the most relevant conversations about any themes, content or possible dangers that may be found while playing.

**Go to the settings:** Always, always, check out what is available in the settings to make the experience as safe and user friendly as possible. This is where you can select who can contact your child, who can see their content, what content they can see, who can comment to them, what they can say, what words or phrases they can hear etc.

**Google the potential risks:** Understand some of the risks that have been associated with the game or app so you know you are doing all you can to avoid that risk.

**Connect with your child:** Talk to your child about what they like to do. We don't always have to be lecturing about what not to do online, but we can certainly be speaking about the positive elements and how we can encourage them to find ways to enjoy the good rather

**Watch them in this playground:** Just as you would when they first take off the training wheels, or first make it on to the skate park, we watch to see how they are going. Check to see if they are learning from past mistakes, to see if they have a back-up plan, to warn if you need to and to help them get back up again should they fall.

We don't send our kids to adult movies when they are young because they don't have the cognitive development to process much of that content which may well be inappropriate. We don't send them to the city alone full of strangers and expect them to navigate on their own and make decisions about unfamiliar people and surroundings. And so too, we must not hand over the digital world without both the teaching, guidance and connection, as well as the safety strategies, the boundaries and the research to know that they have the ability to remain safe and make the best decisions for themselves in the online world.