



GOROKAN PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Wednesday 13th November 2019

Term 4, Week 5 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Gorokan Public School we believe remembrance is the key to appreciation and gratitude for the great sacrifice made by those who served for our great country.

Remembrance Day - On Monday we commemorated Remembrance Day with a one minute's silence at 11:00am in memory of the brave servicemen and women who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts. The Australian flag was also flown at half-mast for part of the day as a mark of respect.

Music Count Us In (MCUI) - Last Friday the students participated in MCUI, joining communities from all over Australia. Our students sang along with more than half a million people across the country to the same song that they have been practising in their classrooms in the lead up to this event. The children watched the live streaming and sang in their best voices accompanied by Mrs Morrow and the recorder group and led by members of the school choir. The event was a great experience for the students and sounded amazing.



Photo Music Count Us In Celebration

Visitor Requirements - Gorokan Public School has a wonderful community of parents and carers who usually interact with each other, the students and staff in a safe and respectful manner. Safety regulations prevent any visitor from going directly to classrooms or from speaking directly to children other than their own. Entering upon the school site is a privilege that is valued by all and dependent upon this appropriate behaviour (Inclosed Lands Act - 1901). Apart from the regular dropping off or picking up of students, all visitors to the school must report to the office to state the purpose of their visit before proceeding to other parts of the school. All volunteers must sign in on their arrival and out on their departure, read the safety pamphlet on their initial visit and wear a visitor's badge at all times.

Kindergarten Orientation - Thank you to the parents and carers who have attended our Kindergarten orientation program. The staff and I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the children who are starting school next year and their families. Whilst the formal program was completed today, the transition playgroups organised through the SAC will continue until the end of the year and I would recommend attendance. As mentioned in previous newsletters, parents and carers of students starting school next year are urged to complete the enrolment process as a priority so that important school planning can occur.

Crazy Hair Day - This Friday the students and staff will be raising money to support Cystic Fibrosis (CF) research through a Crazy Hair Day fundraiser. Everyone is encouraged to come to school with a crazy hair do and gold coin donation in support of this worthy cause. There are great ideas on the net for enthusiastic parents and students wanting to stand out in the crowd. Please note that this is not a mufti day. Thanks for your anticipated support of this great cause.

P&C - Thank you to those who attended our last P&C meeting for 2019 on Monday. It was a great meeting and a wonderful opportunity for me to directly share with the community the great things that are happening in our school and to express gratitude for the diligent service provided by this group of dedicated volunteers.

2020 Classes - A further reminder is extended to all parents and carers that we are currently organising classes for next year. I invite parents to write to me if they feel there are special needs that need to be considered when placing students in classes for 2020. The task of forming classes is complex and all requests will be considered carefully. Requests must be received by Friday 22nd November.

Bush Fire Alert - The school remained operational during the recent bush fire alert. The students were kept safely indoors on Tuesday and programs were able to run as normal on this day. Unfortunately the Schools Spectacular rehearsal had to be cancelled and the Stage 2 soccer gala day has been postponed until tomorrow Thursday 14th November. Sincere thanks for your support with this.

Together we can make a difference.

Jesmond Zammit

Principal

Dates to Remember

Thursday 14 th November	Boys Soccer Gala Day
Friday 15 th November	Crazy Hair Day Fundraiser
Tuesday 19 th November	Stage 1 Water Rewards Day
Wednesday 20 th November	Stage 2 Water Rewards Day
Thursday 21 st November	Scripture Christmas Assembly Volunteers Morning Tea
Friday 22 nd November	Year 6 Fundraising Disco
Monday 25 th November to Friday 6 th December	Life Education
Friday 6 th December	Questacon Science Circus
Monday 9 th December	Year 6 Farewell
Tuesday 10 th December	Presentation Day
Wednesday 11 th December	Year 6 Rewards Day
Thursday 12 th December	Stage 2 Water Rewards Day
Friday 13 th December	Xmas Sing-a-Long
Tuesday 17 th December	Gorokan's Got Talent
Wednesday 18 th December	Last day of the year for students

Early Stage 1 Supervisor - Mrs D Jeanpierre

Class Awards - Congratulations to the following students for receiving class awards last week at our grade gathering: **KL** - Harrison and Felicity, **KJ** - Isaac and Eric, **KF/L** - Tyler and Holly, **KD/T** - Lachlan and Ebony, **KC** - Aliya and Ola.

Blue Reading Folders - Please return the blue reading folders in Week 8. There will be a charge of \$25 if it is not returned.

Hats - Please remember to send a hat and water bottle with your child to school every day. We would appreciate any glue stick donations as these are used regularly in Kindergarten.

Stage 1 Supervisor - Miss L Anderson

Swim Scheme - Well done to all Year Two students who have returned their Swim Scheme notes. If you need another note, please see your child's teacher.

Rewards Day - All Year 1 and 2 students who have received 4, 5 or 6's on their weekly behaviour card this term will be enjoying their mini rewards day on Friday. Congratulations on your positive choices throughout the term.

Stage 2 Supervisor - Mrs R Ranse

Late Arrivals - If you arrive late, after 9:15am, please go to the office to collect a late note BEFORE going to class. Children who arrive late are marked as a partial absence on that day.

Leaving Early Before 3:00pm - If you are taking your child from school early, please go the office BEFORE going to class to collect your child. The class teacher must see the pass before your child can be taken early from the school grounds.

Stage 3 Supervisor - Mrs G Farrell

Student Leadership - The process for next year is underway with nominations being made and speeches being written ready for presentation in front of the grade.

Year 6 Rewards Day - Our Mingara and Pizza Rewards Day will be held on Wednesday 11th December. Students who have maintained a ratings level of 4, 5 and 6 will be invited to attend. There is no cost for this activity, as funds are taken from Year 6 fundraising. Students must maintain high standards of behaviour throughout Term 4.

The day includes bus travel to and from Mingara, two hours in the pool, including the floating island and novelty activities, and Domino's pizza for lunch. Notes will be sent home in the next few weeks asking for pizza preferences, food allergies and number of slices.

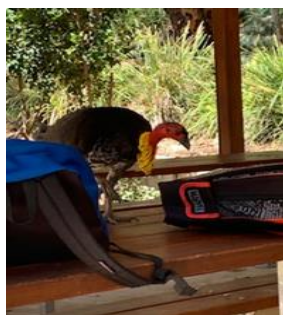
Year 6 Farewell - The Year 6 Farewell will be held on Monday 9th December. We are looking at changing some of the organisation for this year's farewell, however it will still be held at Wallarah Bay Recreation Club and the cost will be partly subsidised by Year 6 fundraising. More details will follow in the coming weeks.

Signature Bears - We have a limited number of signature bears, soccer balls and footballs available to purchase at a cost of \$16.00 each. Notes have been sent home, however spare notes can be collected from Miss Bertram.

Special Education - Mrs S Crook

Blackbutt Nature Reserve Excursion - The children had a wonderful day on Wednesday on our excursion to Blackbutt Nature Reserve. Everyone was extremely well behaved and polite and the children were a credit to our school. There were lots of animals to look at and plenty of room to run around and play. The park and play equipment area were popular too! The bush turkeys and peacocks were very interested in our school bags, one even grabbed Rayner's lunch and ran off with it! We would also like to thank Mr Brad Nelson, one of our

school chaplains, who drove the bus and joined in looking at the animals with us and playing footy on the oval.



Flipping to Positive Words - While the children are at school, we use positive phrases to encourage them to make good choices about their learning and behaviour. Sometimes they get confused when they are told what not to do, and it is better to tell them what they should be doing instead. Below are some examples I found online that might be useful at home. 😊

Instead of ...	Try ...
Be quiet?	Can you use a softer voice?
No swearing!	Please use kind words
Do you need help?	I'm here if you need me
What a mess!	It looks like you've had fun! How can we clean up?

School News

Fundraising Activity - Year 6 will be holding their final fundraising activity on Friday 22nd November. It will be a disco, and cool spider drinks will be on sale. Notes advising more details will be sent out soon.

P & C News - Miss J Daunt

Crazy Hair Fundraiser - On Friday 15th November, the P&C are holding a Crazy Hair fundraiser. Students are invited to wear their hair in a crazy hairstyle or wear crazy socks for a gold coin donation. Full school uniform including enclosed shoes must be worn.

Thank you - A big thank you to all the P&C members that attended our meeting on Monday.

Sport News

Special Swimming Scheme - This will take place in Weeks 7 and 8, Term 4. The cost of \$50 is for the 10 day program and includes bus travel and pool entry. There are still spaces available. It is now open to all students in Years 2-6. Even if your child can swim, it would be a

great opportunity for them to improve their swimming skills and fitness in preparation for our school swimming Carnival in 2020. If you wish your child to attend these lessons and you have not seen a note, please collect one from the office.

School Swimming Carnival 2020 - The carnival will be held at Mingara Aquatic Centre on Monday 3rd February 2020. All students in Years 3-5 in 2020, and any 8 year olds in Year 2 in 2020 who are capable of swimming 50m freestyle, can attend. There will be a cost of \$6 to cover bus travel, entry into the pool and hiring of the blow up water slide. Notes will be sent home soon.



SaC Centre News

Programs for Term 4 - The following programs will be held in our SaCC this term:

Monday - FoodREDi Healthy Lifestyle program Bring a friend and have some fun – runs for 6 weeks on Monday afternoons - 12:30pm - 2:30pm. Phone 0467 670 712 to register.

Tuesday - 'Little Murguwans' Aboriginal Supported Playgroup 0-6 Years - Tuesday mornings 9:30am - 11:30am.

Wednesday - Aboriginal Go for Fun - Culturally adapted 10 week healthy lifestyle program for 7-13 year old Aboriginal children and their families. Wednesday afternoons 3:30pm - 5:30pm.

Wednesday - Early Birds playgroup for 4-6 year olds. Wednesday mornings 9:15am-11:15am - Please bring a piece of fruit and a drink for your child/ren.

This playgroup will help your child prepare for school through developing foundational skills for learning.

Contact Details: Liz McMinn, SaCC Facilitator

Phone: 0467 670 712

Email: liz.mcminn@det.nsw.edu.au

Webpage: [CCSaCC](#)

Like us on Facebook: [CCSaCC Facebook](#)

A taste of falafel and independence

School is in full swing in the United States, which means that some lucky students are about to undergo an enormous, transformative experience. It does not involve a test. At least not on paper.

It involves doing a Let Grow project – a radical new homework assignment where the kids' task is to go home and do one thing on their own that they haven't done yet. These activities that might sound simple or scary, depending on how much local news you watch: Walk the dog. Make dinner. Run an errand.

Here's what some 6th graders in my city – New York – discovered:

"Going home by myself gave me many different feelings. I found it fun, because I was finally able to take the bus all by myself! Also, when I got off, I walked to my building – 8 blocks in total. My fear of going home alone disappeared. I am so happy I forced myself (and I also forced my parents) to go home alone. Now I am allowed to do it every day!"

See? That was a transformative afternoon for that girl. Here's a boy whose mother allowed him to get a snack on his own:

"After the eternity of waiting, the school day is over. I think to myself: 'Where to start? So many things to see!' I figure that if I was going to be a new and independent me, I should try new things. So, I go to the falafel place and order falafel with sour cream and salad. I have never eaten sour cream before. I feel nervous and I hate that. It is all because my parents always keep a really close eye on me. I'm so accustomed to them watching me that not being watched is abnormal. The pita sandwich finally comes. I have one bite of the sloppy mess and think, 'OH. MY. GOD. FANTAAAAABULOUS!!' It was one of the best meals I ever had. I eat until I notice my plate is empty."

And now from a boy who's exaggerating his fears...I hope:

"Being 11, I feel more independent than ever. I have decided to risk my life and make an egg sandwich, all by myself, and eat it too. This task is harder than it may seem. I am going to use a flame to cook eggs, all independently.... I transfer the eggs to the pan. I am a little nervous now, since I can easily touch the flame right then and there."

He manages to make the eggs, as well as the toast, even though, he writes, "in the process I could easily burn myself." He survives and eats the sandwich: "Yum."

Last story, this one from a girl:

"Everyone says that when you're on an adventure, you'll travel far. I don't believe this to be true. In fact, today my adventure led me to a neighbourhood cafe, Cosi. I have been begging my parents to let me go somewhere on my own. Today, they finally caved. They sent me off, cell phone in hand, and told me to have fun. I felt as if I was a bird who had broken free of her cage."

Naturally, she has to call her parents the second she arrives safely. But, it's a start.

All these adventures are. Maybe they seem small, even silly, but in a culture that has created mountains of fear around every childhood experience, these kids have started their climb. Pretty soon, they'll be ready to fly.

You can view videos and info on the [Let Grow Project](#). There's a letter to send to parents, an instruction sheet for teachers, a list of activity ideas for the kids, and an optional worksheet. All Let Grow's materials are downloadable and free of charge.