



GOROKAN PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Wednesday 11th Dec 2019

Term 4, Week 9 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Gorokan Public School we believe that student achievements, efforts and talents must be acknowledged and celebrated. We also believe that opportunities for inspiration often come from these celebrations.

Presentation Day - Our 2019 Presentation Day assemblies were held yesterday. Congratulations to our many award recipients and to the numerous other students who were acknowledged throughout the year for their efforts and achievements in learning, leadership, values, citizenship, sports, arts and cultural ventures. Approximately 200 awards were handed out, witnessed by the students, parents, carers and special guests including: Councillor Jillian Hogan - representing Emma McBride, Member for Dobell, Sharryn Brownlee - President of the Central Coast P&C Council, Mrs Shanie Singleton - Relieving Principal Gorokan High School and Ms Jasmine Daunt - President of Gorokan Public School P&C. During the proceedings next year's student leadership team was announced and inducted by their 2019 counterparts.

Congratulations to our 2020 leadership team:

Girl School Captain – Hannah T

Boy School Captain – Kingston S

Girl Vice Captain – Aimee M

Boy Vice Captain – J J

Prefects – Chloe M, Gabby D-F, Jorjah C, Thomas M.

Year 6 Graduation Assembly - Last Monday we dedicated a special assembly to our Year 6 students to commemorate their Primary education and reflect on the highlights of their time as students at Gorokan Public School. During proceedings, the following awards were announced: **Dux of Gorokan Public School** - Najwa M, **Aboriginal Cultural Award** - Toby L, **Dobell Community Service Award** – Evie D-F, **Cultural Award** - Bella M, **Citizenship Award** - Chelsea O, **Sportsperson Award** - Breanna B, **Zone**

Swimming Champion - Evie D-F, **Zone Athletics Champion** - Breanna B, **Public Speaking Award** - 1st Bella M, 2nd Hannah B, 3rd Breanna B. Each student received a special edition Year 6 Yearbook as a parting gift from the P&C.

Yearly Reports - Student progress reports for the second semester will be sent home this Friday, 13th December. Our aim with these reports is to provide parents and carers with detailed information about student academic progress, their efforts and achievements at school over the course of the past two terms. The teachers strive to report this information in a strength-based manner, capturing the personal successes of each student's efforts. The reports also contain information regarding suggestions for improvement. Congratulations to our hardworking students for their fine efforts throughout the year and thank you to our dedicated teachers for their time and diligence in preparing these detailed reports.

End of Year/Beginning of 2020 - School concludes next Wednesday 18th December and resumes for students in Years 1 to 6 on Wednesday 29th January 2020. Kindergarten students will commence school on Monday 3rd February and have a staggered start on the day as outlined in a separate note that will be sent home to parents.

If you have a child who will not be returning to our school next year (excluding Year 6), please inform the ladies in the office. As mentioned in previous newsletters, the number of students we have plays a vital role in our planning of class structures.

As in previous years our classes will commence the new year with the students returning to their 2019 class, where they will remain for the shortest time possible until our final student numbers are confirmed. We have found this to be the best practice to ensure a smooth transition for the students. All students will commence the new year being engaged in their grade appropriate work for 2020.

Christmas Sing-along - The annual Christmas Sing-along will be held on Friday 13th December. The students really enjoy performing their favourite Christmas carols and parents and carers are warmly invited to attend this popular community event.

Holiday Uniform Shop Purchases - Gorokan Public School Uniform Shop is now online www.gtschool.com.au Payment is through PayPal. The yellow house sports polo shirt has a coloured stripe to indicate the house your child belongs to. The coloured stripe is determined by your child's surname as follows Brooks - A-E (red), Buck - F-L (yellow), Gascoigne - M-Q (green) and Thwaite - R-Z (blue). The Uniform shop **will be open for sales on Tuesday 14th and 21st January 2020 between 9:00am and 11.00am**. Orders that are placed online over the holiday break and can be **picked up on these 2 days between 11:00am and 12:00pm**.

School Satisfaction Survey - Thank you to the parents and carers who gave up their time to participate in this year's satisfaction survey. Your input is highly valued and will serve the school well in planning for the future. The results will be published in the 2019 Gorokan Public School Annual Report early in the new year.

Finally, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to our loyal school community for your ongoing support. It has been another wonderful and highly productive year and I look forward to building on our school and community partnership in making a difference for our students in 2020.

Have a safe and merry Christmas holiday break.

Together we can make a difference.

Jermund Zammit

Principal

Dates to Remember

Thursday 12 th December	Stage 1 & Stage 2 Water Rewards Day
Friday 13 th December	Xmas Sing-along
Tuesday 17 th December	Gorokan's Got Talent
Wednesday 18 th December	Last day of the year for students
Wednesday 29 th January	First day back for students

Early Stage 1 Supervisor - Mrs D Jeanpierre

Class Awards - Congratulations to the following students for receiving class awards last week at our gathering: **KL** - Keenan, Maxon, Ben, **KJ** - Jasmine, Beau, **KFL** - Bradley, Jasmine, Jacob, **KDT** - Lorana, Noah, **KC** - Adam, Azalea.

Blue Reading Folders - Please return the blue reading folders this week. These will be kept at school for your child to use next year.

Kindergarten Party Day - This Friday 13th December is Kindergarten Party Day. Students can wear mufti clothes, including sensible running shoes, and are required to bring a hat so they can participate in fun outdoor activities. Students will need to bring morning tea, lunch and a water bottle. Please feel free to decorate your child's lunch box.

Last Day of School – The last day of school for all students is **Wednesday 18th December**.

Stage 1 Supervisor – Miss L Anderson

Picnic Party - Stage 1 is having a picnic party on Friday 13th December. We are asking students to bring a gold coin so that teachers can buy some yummy party food for the picnic. A note has been sent home with more details. Thank you to the families who have already sent their gold coin in to their child's class. Please send your child's gold coin in as soon as possible so teachers can start planning the picnic food and drinks.

Home Readers – We have finished our home reading program and are asking that all home readers be returned to your child's teacher so they can be re-used next year. Well done to all of the students who reached their goals with their home reading rewards.

Stage 2 Supervisor - Mrs R Ranse

School Reports - Reports will be sent home this week. If you have concerns please speak to your class teacher who can meet with you if needed.

Merry Christmas - On behalf of all of the Stage 2 teachers, we would like to wish all of our students and parents/carers a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year. We look forward to seeing everyone back ready for a new year of learning in 2020.

Stage 3 Supervisor - Mrs G Farrell

Year 5 - A list of stationery requirements for 2020 has been sent home so that your child will be ready and organised for day one next year.

Year 6 - Our best wishes go out to all Year Six students as they head off to high school next year. Follow your dreams.

Year 6 Graduation Assembly - It was great to see so many parents/carers and relatives at the Year 6 Graduation Assembly. The Year 6 Farewell Dinner and Disco was enjoyed by both teachers and students.



Signature Bears - We have a 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.

Merry Christmas - All teachers on Stage 3 would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas, happy new year, and a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Special Education - Mrs S Crook

Grade Gathering Award Winners - The following students received awards for their great learning and behaviour this week: Tyson, Kaia, Amelia and Nicole. Well done super stars!

Swimming Program - We are so proud of all the students who have participated in the Support Unit swimming program. They are learning new skills every week and being respectful and courteous to the instructors. Please remember to send your \$10 per week to cover the cost of swimming. If you are using an Active Kids voucher to pay for swimming or have any questions please see Mrs Greentree.



Sport News

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 have been sent home for this event.

SaCC Activities - This is the last week for all 2019 Gorokan Schools as Community Centre (SaCC) activities. Thank you to all the families who participated in the SaCC playgroups, transition time school program and parenting programs. It's been a fantastic year for everyone and we will look forward to greeting new and returning families again in 2020.

SaC Centre News

Keep an eye on the Facebook page for the 2020 program and dates for registration. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Many thanks,
Liz McMinn
Local Facilitator
Gorokan Schools as Community Centres

P & C News – Ms Jasmine Daunt

Lucky Dips - The P&C will be selling lucky dips during the Christmas sing-along on Friday 13th December for \$1 each. Lucky Dips will also be on sale for students to purchase during recess and lunch. If you are able to help sell tickets could you please email me on jasmine.daunt3@det.nsw.edu.au. **Cash only please. No on-line payments will be accepted.**

Community Liaison Officer – Ms Jasmine Daunt

Carols in the Park - Christmas Carols in the Park will be held on Thursday 14th December from 4:30pm at Dean Park Reserve at Kanwal. Come along for a fun evening with food, games, jumping castle, face painting and Christmas carols. Presented by The Salvation Army and Lakes Baptist Church Gorokan.

I would like to wish all of our students and families a wonderful and safe holiday. See you all in 2020.

Reading your child's report

By Michael Grose

Reports can mean anxious times for children. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children.

Could try harder . . . always does her best . . . lacks concentration . . . easily distracted . . . a pleasure to teach . . .

Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar? Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind:

1. Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?

Expectations are tricky. If they are too high then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pitch your expectations in line with your child's abilities. A quick check of your child's last report cards may provide you with a good yardstick.

2. Do you believe that children learn at different rates?

There are slow bloomers, late developers and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom, so avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends' children and even yourself when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

3. Are you willing to safeguard your child's self-esteem rather than deflate it?

Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible.

School reports come in different formats. Some are prescriptive while some use grading systems such as A, B, C, etc. with room for teacher comments. Regardless of the format school reports should provide you with an idea of your child's progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child's report:

Focus on strengths. Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.

Take into account your child's effort and attitude to learning. If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.

Broaden your focus away from academic performance to form a picture of your child's progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don't dismiss these as unimportant.

Take note of student self- assessment. Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.

Discuss the report with your son or daughter talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child's efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.