



GOROKAN PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Wednesday 22nd May 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Gorokan Public School we strive to build a positive working relationship with parents, carers and the school community in order to enhance the school experience for our students. The P&C plays a key role in this partnership and is the official voice of the school community. It's at these meetings that genuine collaboration between the school and the community occurs. Meetings are usually held once a term and any parent or guardian can attend. Thank you to those who attended Monday's meeting. The next P&C general meeting will be held on Monday 12th August at 3:15pm in the school library. Student supervision and afternoon tea will be provided.

Public Education Foundation Awards - Last Wednesday night I attended the Public Education Foundation annual *Proudly Public Awards Ceremony* at Sydney Town Hall in the presence of a number of dignitaries including the Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC, NSW Minister for Education. It was a spectacular evening where I formally received my Principals' Scholarship award and had the honour of making a formal address. The essence of what I spoke about was the power of human connection, where students, staff and the community work together, as we do at Gorokan Public School, to ensure a sense of mutual respect and genuine collaboration, which have resulted in great outcomes for our students. I also spoke of some of our school's recent successes and explained what my studies at Harvard would mean for the future leadership of our great school. I am so pleased and most proud that our wonderful school is being so widely celebrated beyond our school community and once again I thank the staff, students and community for the teamwork that is making the dream work.

Semester 1 Reports - In response to the survey completed last year seeking feedback from the community regarding our current reporting format, a number of changes will be introduced for this reporting period. Each key learning area will list the most significant grade level learning goals that the students have been exposed to over the semester. Parents and carers will be clearly informed as to their child's progress in achieving these goals via a scale of: **Strength, Achieved, Area for Improvement** so that successes can be acknowledged and further assistance can be provided in specific areas if required. The students' achievement in each of the key learning areas will be assessed and reported against the same five-point scale as in previous reports and the

assessment of effort will also remain the same. Thank you to those who provided the feedback that has resulted in these refinements.

Teacher Professional Learning - Ongoing professional learning opportunities provide staff with training that will enhance their skills and target specific areas of the school plan. To this end, our school is currently providing staff with intensive training in *Glasser's Choice Theory* of internal psychology. Fourteen of our teachers are currently participating in this four-day training program, enhancing the work of the majority of staff, including myself, who have already completed extensive training in this topic. Judy Hatswell is the trainer who the school has enlisted for her outstanding knowledge in the subject and its impact on student wellbeing, behaviour management and whole school approaches in enabling students to be responsible for their behaviour. Her workshops focus on teachers learning practical skills for implementation in the classroom. Judy will be back tomorrow to complete another two days of training and it is hoped that all staff will eventually be trained. I also participated in two days of professional learning last week, as I attended the ConnectEd Principals' conference. This experience provided me with the opportunity to keep abreast of educational innovation and school leadership. There were a number of inspirational keynote speakers including Pasi Sahlberg, Anne McIntyre and Thomas Guskey all of whom are leading educational experts. I gained many great ideas for further school advancement from my participation at the conference.

Debating - Congratulations to our junior debators Hannah T, Sienna M, Mia K and Asalaina F who debated against Kanwal Public School yesterday. The team debated the topic *Children Have Too Many Toys*. The girls did a great job arguing the negative with some very persuasive points.

Sydney Writers' Festival - Approximately 50 students participated in the Sydney Writers' Festival at the Sydney Town Hall recently. The students involved listened to inspiring talks from popular children's writers, gaining an insight into writing techniques that they can apply to their own writing. They had a great day and represented the school very well.

Together we can make a difference.

Jermond Zammit

Principal

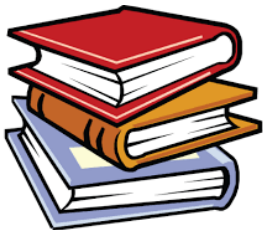
Dates to Remember

Tuesday 14 th - Friday 24 th May	Year 3 & Year 5 NAPLAN online
Wednesday 22 nd May	Year 5/6 Expo – Gorokan High School
Monday 27 th May	Premier's Debating Challenge, Round 2 Knockout Goalball Day – Niagara Park Stadium
Tuesday 28 th May	Knockout Netball Gala Day – Baker Park, Wyong
Monday 3 rd June	Young Leaders Conference – Gosford Leagues Club
Tuesday 4 th June	Year 6 Social Skills Program – Camp Toukley
Friday 5 th July	Athletics Carnival - Mingara
Wednesday 31 st July	Year 3 – Girrakool & Bulgandry Excursion
Thursday 1 st August	Year 4 – Girrakool & Bulgandry Excursion
Monday 26 th - Wednesday 28 th August	Year 5 - Bathurst Excursion
Tuesday 3 rd - Thursday 5 th September	Year 6 - Canberra Excursion

Early Stage 1 Supervisor – Mrs D Jeanpierre

Class Awards - Congratulations to the following students for receiving class awards last week. **KC** – Hannah, Riley **KD/T** – Jack, Ebony **KJ** – Sophie, Bentley **KL** – Shanae, Molly **KF/L** – Holly, Oliver.

Home Readers - Please sign the Term 2 reading card nightly but keep the books for one week before returning them to school to swap. Please return the folder each Friday to swap books for the following week.



History Assessment - This semester, Kindergarten students have been sharing their family stories and discovering how families may be similar or different. This week, we are asking each child to speak briefly about their family and share any pictures they may bring to school. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our friends and support family cultures. Please send in

any family pictures your child may share and discuss interest areas with your child in preparation.

Belongings - Please clearly label all of your child's belongings. This promotes a quicker return of items if they were to go missing or be misplaced.

Stage 1 Supervisor - Miss L Anderson

Excursion - Year One and Year Two students thoroughly enjoyed their excursion to Wyong Art House Theatre to see Billionaire Boy yesterday.

Absent Notes - If your child has been away from school please send in a note to your child's teacher on their return to school. It is a legal requirement that notes are received within seven days of a student's absence. The note must state the dates your child was absent and the reason for the absence. More than 3 days away from school will require a medical certificate to be sent in on your child's return.

Stage 2 Supervisor - Mrs R Ranse

NAPLAN - Congratulations to our Year 3 students who have been completing their NAPLAN testing last week and this week. The Stage 2 teachers could not be prouder of the efforts the students put in to these important assessments. Well done Year 3 students!

Stage 3 Supervisor - Mrs G Farrell

Be Organised - We would like to ask that all Stage 3 students come organised for learning with their own pencils and pens.

Year 5 and 6 Expo - This event will be held at Gorokan High School tonight, 22nd May from 5:00-6:30pm. It is a great chance to see what GHS has to offer your child.

Year 6 Canberra Excursion - 3rd September to 5th September - Medical notes have been sent home to all students attending the excursion. Please complete them and return to school as soon possible. Please keep paying off the Canberra excursion. A total of \$250 is due by 12th June and the final payment is due by 4th July.

Year 5 Bathurst Excursion - 26th August - 28th August - Notes have been sent home and the non-refundable deposit of \$80 was due last week. If you still wish for your child to attend, please contact the office and pay the deposit as soon as possible. A total of \$250 is due by 12th June and the final payment totalling \$380 is due by 4th July.

NAPLAN - Year 5 have completed NAPLAN online for 2019. Well done to all students.

School Leadership Team - Our school student leadership team will be attending a Young Leaders' Conference on Monday 3rd June at Gosford Leagues Club.

Special Education - Mrs S Crook

Afternoon Pick Up - Just a quick reminder that all Multicat students will walk with their teacher to the red Remembrance Park area at the end of the day, so parents can pick their children up there. All students will be dismissed when the bell goes at 3:00pm. Thank you for your help in establishing this routine in order to keep our students safe at the end of the day.

Sick Children - The cold weather has brought lots of sickness. Please keep your child at home if they are not well to prevent the spread of germs. More than 3 days away from school will require a medical certificate to be sent in on your child's return.

Drink Bottles - Please ensure your child has a drink bottle filled with only water every day. Ensuring your child's drink bottle and other items are clearly labelled with their name makes it easier to find the owner if they happen to be misplaced.

Sport News

Goalball - Our school team will be competing in the PSSA Knockout Goalball Day on Monday 27th May at Niagara Park Stadium.

Netball - Our school team will be competing in the PSSA Knockout Netball Gala Day on Tuesday 28th May at Baker Park Wyong.

School News

School Fundraising - We are raising money for our school and are thrilled to be launching the NEW 2019/2020 Entertainment Memberships! The book or app costs \$65 with 20% of every membership sold going to the school. There are great deals which include 2-for-1, special rates and up to 50% off activities, dining, shopping, travel and leisure. There is a 2018/19 book in the office for you to look at as an example. It does not take you long to save the \$65 you spend. Anytime you use it, the savings are dollars in your pocket! Please help us achieve our goal by purchasing an Entertainment Membership online at <http://www.entbook.com.au/345h40> or contact the office for a form to complete.

Catholic Reconciliation - If your child is in Year 3 or older and you would like him/her to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession), a program is beginning at St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish at Warnervale. Enrolment forms are available at the school office. For more details contact the parish office on 8379 1740 or email warnervaleparish@bbcatholic.org.au.

Family Holidays and Travel - Families are encouraged to travel or holiday during school holidays. If this is not possible, an Application for Extended Leave, or eligibility to enrol in Distance Education is required. Once the

application is received, the Principal considers that the travel is appropriate and a Certificate of Extended Leave will be issued. Absences relating to travel will then be marked as leave on the roll and contribute to your child's total absences for the year. The Application for Extended Leave can be obtained from the office and must be submitted in advance to the leave commencing otherwise the leave will be deemed unjustified.

Head Lice and Nits - Head lice is an ongoing problem in all schools. Please be vigilant in your treatment so this problem can be eradicated from the school. I would encourage parents and carers to check your child's hair regularly and if you notice lice or eggs please treat the whole family immediately. The lice are very small parasitic insects, about the size of a sesame seed. They are usually light brown in colour. Close inspection of the scalp may reveal whitish eggs (nits) firmly attached to the hair, especially at the back of the neck and above the ears. Hatched lice and itchy red marks may also be seen. There are a number of simple and effective head lice treatments available from your local chemist. Did you know that cheap conditioner is the best way to remove them?

Second Hand Uniforms - If you have any uniform items at home that your children have outgrown and are in good condition, we would appreciate it if you would consider donating them to the school.

P&C News - Ms J Daunt

P&C Meeting - Thank you to all those who attended our P&C Meeting on Monday afternoon. It was great discussing the wonderful things that are happening at our school.



Gorokan Public School Winter Uniform

Helping children make and keep friends

by Michael Grose

Enjoying healthy relationships has a tremendous impact on your child's wellbeing and their overall success at school. Many children who experience behavioural problems at school have difficulty interacting with their peers.

Coach your child in positive social skills

Children who develop healthy friendships generally have a definite set of social skills that help make them easy to like, easy to relate to and easy to play with. If your child is struggling to make friends consider coaching them using this three-pronged approach:

Be open: Some children close themselves off to forming new friendships, preferring to stick to one or two friends. Encourage your child to be open to forming friendships with a wide variety of children in and outside school and in doing so encircling themselves with many friendship groups

Be inclusive: Encourage your child to include a wide number of children in their games and activities rather than restricting the possibility of joining in to certain children. Healthy friendship groups are open and inclusive of others, while unhealthy relationships, such as cliques are restrictive, one-sided and full of gossip and criticism

Be aware: Encourage social awareness in your child. For instance, a socially-aware child would be discrete when giving out birthday party invitations at school, being protective and sensitive to the feeling of those not invited. This level of social awareness doesn't necessarily come naturally to all children, but it can be reinforced by parents and teachers.

Encourage friendships with both genders

The primary school age is an ideal time for children to form friendships with both genders. This is particularly valid if your child has siblings of their own gender, or don't have siblings. It's through these early relationships that we gain the confidence to mix with different genders in later life. Forming friends helps to break down the mystique that can form, when a child has little contact with the 'other' gender.

Understand the impact of gender on friendships

Research shows that boys' friendships groups are more inclusive and less changeable than friendships enjoyed by girls, particularly those in the eight to twelve year age group. Be prepared to support your daughter through the hurt of friendship breakdowns and remind her that new friendships are just around the corner. Help her reflect on her own place in a friendship breakdown, and be open to restoring a relationship once emotions are in check.

Remember, friends of a feather flock together

If you think that your child doesn't have as many friends as a sibling or other children their own age, don't be too alarmed. On average, children usually have only two or three significant friendships at any one time. It's the quality rather than the quantity of friendships that counts. If you are concerned that your child lacks friends at school encourage him to take up a variety of extra-curricular activities. It's easier to strike up a friendship with someone when you have something in common.

Above all else encourage your child to be friendly by talking to others, showing an interest in what other children do, offering help when needed and being willing to enter a new game or social situation. Consider teaching your child, if necessary, alternatives to fighting and arguing when there is disagreement and conflict within groups.