



Gorokan Public School

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Principal: Jesmond Zammit

Term 1 | Week 2

Wednesday 5th February 2020

NEWSLETTER

Dates to Remember

Thursday 6 th February to Friday 14 th February	Life Education
Monday 17 th February	Zone Cricket Trials
Monday 17 th February – Friday 21 st February	Parent/Teacher Interviews
Tuesday 18 th February	Zone Soccer Trials
Wednesday 26 th & Thursday 27 th February	School Photos
Friday 28 th February	School Clean Up Australia Day
Friday 28 th February	Zone Tennis and Rugby League Trials
Thursday 12 th March	Year 6 Selective H.S. Tests

Principal's Report

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new families who have recently joined our well-connected school community. I trust that everyone has had an enjoyable and relaxing break and that the students are excited about the year ahead. At Gorokan Public School we believe that every new school year presents a multitude of opportunities for students to grow and thrive in their learning and personal development, and I wish all our students a successful and enjoyable year ahead.

2020 Classes - The way in which the school is staffed is on a very strict formula. A change of only a few student enrolments can affect the entire class structure of the school. This is why students return to their old classes until we are confident the new class structure can be supported. This short period in their last year's class also allows students to readjust to being back at school after their long holiday break in the care of a teacher that they are familiar with. The students in Years 1 to 6 were placed in their 2020 classes on Thursday and Kindergarten students started school on Monday.

2020 Executive Team

Principal	Mr Zammit
Deputy Principal	Mr Clenton
Deputy Principal – Student Wellbeing	Mr Pratt
Deputy Principal – Learning and Support	Mrs Crook
Deputy Principal - Curriculum	Mrs Behringer
Deputy Principal - Curriculum	Mrs Henderson
Assistant Principal – Early Stage 1	Mrs Jeanpierre
Assistant Principal – Stage 1	Ms Anderson
Assistant Principal – Stage 2	Mrs Ranse
Assistant Principal – Stage 3	Mrs Day

Maximising Student Learning and Engagement - This year, the school will continue to build on its efforts to maximise student learning outcomes and wellbeing.

The following strategies will support this:

- Uninterrupted learning from 9:00 - 12:00 each day allowing the students to focus on their learning of English and Mathematics without interruption will be continued in 2020.
- The appointment of an additional Deputy Principal, Mr Michel Pratt, to focus on student wellbeing and engagement.
- The provision of Instructional Leaders, Mrs Cathie Behringer and Ms Cara Henderson to ensure effective, high quality educational programs, working shoulder to shoulder with the teaching staff.
- A team of learning support staff to assist in the provision of differentiated instruction and support for students who need small group or individual assistance with their learning.
- Resources will be purchased to ensure students have the best available tools to support and enhance their learning free of charge to parents.
- Ongoing targeted teacher professional learning to ensure our teachers have the skills and knowledge to maximise student learning potential.

Keeping You Informed - The school provides a variety of communication options for parents and carers. These include:

- **The School Newsletter** - With the introduction of social media to convey information to the school community, the need for a weekly newsletter has been reconsidered and as of **this year the school will transition to a fortnightly school newsletter**. The newsletter will remain as the most comprehensive source of regular information and a hard copy will be sent home with students on Wednesdays of even weeks. Please ensure that you take the time to read it each week in order to stay informed about what's happening in our great school. The newsletter is also posted on the school website in the event that paper copies don't make it home.
- **Facebook** - School events and special achievements are regularly posted on the Gorokan Public School Facebook page as an additional source of information for you. <https://www.facebook.com/publicschoolgorokan>
- **Parent Information Booklet** - This year the school will be publishing a parent information booklet for each year level in place of the parent teacher meeting sessions which were held at the beginning of each year. Parents will however be invited to attend a parent teacher interview early in the term so that information can be exchanged with their child's new teacher. Further information about this will be sent home shortly.
- **The School Website** - The Gorokan Public School website contains links to relevant school information and online payments. Please familiarise yourself with this useful resource. www.gorokan-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

School Swimming Carnival - The school swimming carnival was held at Mingara on Monday. In addition to the competitive events, the school provided novelty activities for the students to enjoy (including a floating obstacle course). Thank you to all who attended and to the dedicated parents, carers and friends who helped on the day. The students' efforts and achievements will be celebrated at a special assembly tomorrow.



Photo – School Swimming Carnival

Healthy Canteen - I have included a copy of this term's canteen menu on page 4 of this newsletter for your reference. Don't forget that orders can be placed online as an alternative option. Go to <https://www.flexischools.com.au> to place your order.

Congratulations to Alyce and Alex Maiden who became the proud parents of Penelope Joy on 5th January.

Together we can make a difference.

Jesmond Zammit

Principal

Early Stage 1 Supervisor - Mrs D Jeanpierre

Welcome - We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our Kindergarten students and their families and we are looking forward to working together to assist your child in reaching their full potential at Gorokan Public School.

Best Start Assessments - Best Start assessments were held last week. If you were unable to attend your allocated session, your child will be assessed during class time this week. Best Start assessments assist your child's teacher to plan for the individual needs of each child.

Starting and Finishing Times - All Kindergarten students begin school at 9:00am every day as of Tuesday 4th February and conclude school at 2:30pm for this week and next. Their school day will conclude at 3:00pm beginning Week 4. Please bring your child to the hall every morning, and collect your child promptly in the afternoons from outside their classroom door.

If someone other than yourself is collecting your child please let your child's teacher know.

Life Education - Kindergarten students will be visiting the Life Education van over the next fortnight. This service provides valuable life teachings at no cost to students.

Stage 1 Supervisor - Miss L Anderson

Welcome Back - We are all excited and looking forward to a happy and productive first term. Please check your child's school bag daily for any important notes that have been sent home.

Information for the Year - Teachers are finalising organisation details for their classes. A note will be sent home shortly with a list of equipment students will need, details of homework requirements, days for sport, library and any other important information specific to each class.

Stage 2 Supervisor - Mrs R Ranse

Welcome Back - We are looking forward to a wonderfully productive year. Our teachers for the year are: Mrs Murray 3M, Mrs Lumby 3L, Miss Ponchard 3P, Mrs Williams 4W, Mrs Moon 4M, & Mrs Ranse 4R.

If you have any questions about classroom routines or items needed for learning, please contact the school

office to make an appointment to see your child's teacher.

Stage 3 Supervisor - Mrs K Day

Welcome Back - Our teachers for the year are:

Year 5 - 5D Mrs Day (AP and Stage Supervisor), 5F Mr Foley and 5R Mr Richards.

Year 6 - Miss Bates 6B, Mrs Carty 6C and Mrs Farrell 6F. We are looking forward to a fantastic year.

Stage 3 Expectations - These include students being organised with the right equipment necessary to learn, being punctual and in full school uniform every day.

Parent/Teacher Interviews - More information will be sent home when dates and times are finalised. This is a time for parents/carers to share information regarding your child with their new teacher.

Reminder - Year 6 Selective High School tests are on Thursday 12th March, 2020. If you have any queries or concerns please contact your class teacher first.

Special Education - Mrs S Crook

Welcome to 2020! - It has been lovely to see all of our treasured students back after such a long holiday. They have all grown so much! The children have come back to school with big smiles on their faces and have already settled down into routine and are working hard. All of our students continue to work hard at being safe, respectful learners here at Gorokan Public School. We are very proud of our new Class Captains and look forward to them making a real contribution to our school. We have some exciting things planned this year and look forward to watching our students learn and grow as the year progresses.

Hats - A new hat has been ordered for each child and should arrive within two weeks. We will make sure that your child has their name on the hat when it comes home. The school has ordered some spares in case you need to purchase one during the year. They will be available in the front office for \$10.

School News

Classroom Volunteers - Volunteers are an important part of our school community and a great asset for learning in the classroom. If you would like to volunteer in your child's classroom or in other areas of the school, you will need to provide relevant documentation to be approved by the Department of Education. You will be unable to volunteer until this process is complete. Please see our office staff for more information. If you have previously worked in the school, you will need to complete the approval process for volunteers as this is a separate process.

Externally Funded Providers in 2020 - If you would like 4517externally funded therapists like speech and occupational therapists to visit your child at school, please complete a form called Parent/Carer Request for Externally Funded Service Providers which can be collected from the front office. When you complete this application, it will be forwarded to the Learning and Support Team for consideration. After this we will contact your therapist and collect all relevant documentation that is required and organise a time that is suitable for both your child's teacher and the therapist. Please contact me here at school if you have any questions.

Community Liaison Officer - Miss J Daunt

Welcome Back - I hope everyone enjoyed a restful break. It was a pleasure to meet and reconnect with families during the Best Start appointments during Week One.

Thank You - To the parent volunteers who assisted in the hall on Monday with Kindergarten's first day, ensuring a smooth transition.

SaC Centre News

Gorokan Schools as Community Centre

Term 1 Program

Monday: 'Bringing up great kids' Parenting support: C.C. Women's Health

Dates: 10th February to 16th March 2020 - 10:30am to 12:30pm

Cost: Free **Phone:** 4351 1152, bookings essential
Childcare available if pre-booked.

Tuesday: 'Little Murguwans' Aboriginal supported playgroup: Uniting

Dates: Tuesdays during school terms commencing 11th February - 9:30am to 11:30am

Cost: Free **Phone:** Uniting Wyong 4305 6200, bookings required.

Please bring a piece of fruit for your child/ren to share at morning tea

Wednesday: Sensory play 0-2 year old's - 9:30am to 10:30am

Dates: Commencing 12th February for 8 weeks until 1st April.

Sensory play 3 - 6 year old preschoolers **STILL 3 PLACES LEFT** - 11:00am -12:30pm

Cost: FREE Bookings required - Limited places
<https://www.ccsacc.com/gorokan.html>

**Gorokan School as Community Centre, Dudley Street:
Phone 0467 760 712**

Entry via single gate at northern end of Gorokan Public School grounds