



Gorokan Public School

Dudley Street, Gorokan 2263

Phone: 4392 4200 Fax: 4393 1698

Email: Gorokan-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Website: www.gorokan-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Principal: Jesmond Zammit

Term 1 | Week 4

Wednesday 19th February 2020

NEWSLETTER

Dates to Remember

Monday 17 th February - Friday 21 st February	Parent-Teacher Interviews
Monday 24 th February	P&C Meeting
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
Friday 28 th February	Kindergarten Parent/Carers Morning tea
Wednesday 4 th March	Zone Swimming Carnival
Thursday 12 th March	Year 6 Selective HS Tests

Principal's Report

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Gorokan Public School, we value the importance of developing a strong partnership between home and school and have planned many opportunities for community involvement in school life this year. I'm sure you will agree, that parents and school staff working together ensures the best possible outcome for all students.

Parenting Ideas - A Parenting Ideas article will be included with each school newsletter this year. This edition's article - **Working closely with your child's teacher this year** explains how strong parent-teacher relationships are a major contributor to student success. Research into schooling across the western world reveals that positive parent-teacher partnerships are a more significant factor in student success than parent income levels or social status. This article addresses elements to guide parents in forming strong bonds with their child's teachers and is well worth a read. See page 6.

Parent-Teacher Interviews - Over the next few weeks, parents and carers will have the opportunity to have a private meeting with their child's teacher. This year, we

have introduced online interview bookings. An invitation was sent home last week with specific details pertaining to this process. I hope that all parents and carers take up this valuable opportunity to inform the staff of ways in which they can best assist students for the year ahead. Booking an appointment is easy. Go to <https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/> and enter code s7zv4

Parent Information Packs - All parents will receive an information pack as a reference for the year ahead. These packs are the result of community feedback and aimed at ensuring effective communication relating to school events, routines and expectations. We hope you find them useful.

School Leaders' Induction - Congratulations to our elected Year 6 student leadership team and to our elected House and Class Captains. A special assembly to officially congratulate and introduce these leaders to the school was held on Friday 7th February. The new student leadership team led the assembly with confidence despite it being the first official school function for the year. It was great to see so many proud and supportive parents, carers, family and friends present on the day.

For those of you who are new to our school, two students from each class are elected as Class Captains by their classmates at the beginning of each term. Following their official induction, these students have added responsibilities within their classroom and are involved in the Student Representative Council (SRC) - providing regular feedback to the staff regarding student initiatives and suggestions for school improvement. The SRC will be led by Mr Gibbs this year and will meet each week.

Congratulations to the following students:

2020 Student leadership Team

Captains: Kingston S, Hannah T.

Vice Captains: Aimee M, J J.

Prefects: Jorjah C, Gabriella D, Chloe M, Thomas M.

2020 Sports House Captains

Brooks (Students with surnames A-E)

Captains: Makani B, Alizah B.

Vice Captains: Sean C, Aliesha C.

Buck (Students with surnames F-L)

Captains: Wyatt G, Asalina F.

Vice Captains: Mytchell H, Mia K.

Gascoigne (Students with surnames M-Q)

Captains: Riley M, Jessie M.

Vice Captains: Cody Mc, Rachel Mc.

Thwaite (Students with surnames R-Z)

Captains: Luke W, Zali Y.

Vice Captains: Noah T, Tyalah R.

Term 1 Class Captains

K-2: Jacob R, Chelsea L, Alex C, Emma G, Haylen D, Elliot B, Oliver H, Mia C, Santino G, Rozie D, Hunter O, Anna N, Oliver W, Havana J, Noah S, Shanae P, Tyler T, Bronte G, Luke B, Emilina M, Harrison J, Chloe C, Oliver K, Juliet M, Ethan H, Isabella L, Amelia H, Justin K, Noah A.

3-6: Saxon Mc, Keedan M, Ryder S, Alira S, Perrin S, Amarlee W, Tyler K, Grace W, Max E, Ruby B, Taylor B, Chantel H, Lincoln D, Charlie F, Jacob Hi, Kirsty S, Tyler B, Chloe L, Lathan T, Aleisha C, Riley M, Asalaina F, Daniel M, Alizah B.



Photo: 2020 Student Leadership Team - Hannah T, Kingston S, Aimee S, Thomas M, Chloe M, Gabriella D and Jorjah C (J.J. absent)

2020 Classes - The students have settled in extremely well into their new classes. All classes this year are parallel, meaning that they are made up of students of mixed abilities. Within each class, we have strategically placed small groups of students of similar ability and each group receives differentiated instruction to ensure that the individual needs of students are being met. Some composite classes have been formed to cater for the staffing formula used in schools and these classes are also parallel.

Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) - Gorokan Public School has an active P&C who support and enrich the education of the students through a number of activities. Thank you to the parents and carers who have been involved in the P&C. The school appreciates your dedication and commitment and I hope that you will continue your involvement in 2020. New people are always encouraged to attend as we value the opportunity to hear new ideas and grow this dedicated team of school supporters. The next meeting will be held on Monday 24th February at 3:15pm in the school library. At this meeting parents will have the opportunity to learn about the school's enhanced

behaviour management procedures and other school initiatives.

Safety Around Our School - As we begin the new year I must remind everyone that we all need to work together to ensure safety around our school. Please attend to the following:

- Use the **No Standing** drop off zone at the front of the school on Dudley Street to drop off and pick up students. **Don't stop in this area for longer than two minutes.**

Police and Council Rangers patrol our school zone regularly and can issue fines to drivers who fail to abide by these rules.

Departure from School - Students are released from dedicated areas on the final bell of the day at 3:00pm. Students are walked by their teachers to the following pick up points where they will be collected or dismissed:

- Year 1 and 2 - The grass area between the Kindergarten and Year 1 rooms (K-2 COLA in wet weather)
- Year 3 and 4 - The Primary COLA
- Year 5 and 6 - The Basketball Court (Primary COLA in wet weather).

Kindergarten and Special Education will be dismissed from their classrooms. Once dismissed students should leave the school grounds without delay. Students who catch buses must go directly to the bus shelter and wait there quietly and sensibly for teacher instruction. Parents and carers who are at school collecting their children, must ensure adequate supervision. Students exiting via the Suncrest Parade gate must be collected by a parent or guardian and walked out of the school.

Set for Success - Here are some suggestions to help set your child up for a great year:

- Pack school bags the night before school.
- Have plenty of sleep on school nights.
- Dress your child in full school uniform each day (including the correct school hat and jumper). Have it ready the night before school days.
- Be at school on time. Aim to be at school by 8:45am each day. **Students should not be at school before 8:30am when supervision begins.**
- Pack healthy food for fruit break, recess and lunch. A water bottle is essential and can be refilled with chilled, filtered water from any one of the school's five water fountains. Ensure they have a healthy breakfast at home or at the school's breakfast club.
- Practise the **Gorokan High Five** to build resilience and independent social problem-solving skills:
 1. *Say - Stop it I don't like it*
 2. *Say - We don't do that at our school*
 3. *Ignore*
 4. *Walk away*
 5. *Tell the teacher if the problem persists or is unsafe*

Absences - Attending school regularly will ensure students have the opportunity to maximize their learning potential. Any whole day or partial absence must be explained to the child's teacher in writing or via return SMS. The school will continue to notify parents of absences via SMS on any day that students are absent from class during rollcall. Please note absences must be explained within 7 days or they are locked in as unjustified leave.

Bicycle Safety - The school policy for bicycles states:

- If students ride a bicycle to school it must be walked (not ridden) in the school grounds and left in the bicycle racks. Bike locks are essential to help prevent theft.
- Students are not allowed near the bicycle racks during the day.
- Students departing from the front gate will walk with their bicycle across the pedestrian crossing. Students must wear a helmet when riding their bicycle and obey all the road rules.

Generally speaking, young students under the age of 10 years simply do not have enough road sense or the skills necessary to be safe road users and therefore, students under the age of ten are not permitted to ride bicycles to and from school.

Visitors to the School - All visitors to the school must report to the office. All volunteers must sign in and wear a visitor's badge. On leaving the school they need to sign out and remove their badge.

Health Care Plans - Students with diagnosed medical conditions who require medication, treatment or an emergency response plan at school must have a current health care plan. A note was sent home recently to parents and carers of the students who are registered on the school database. Please ensure that a prompt response is provided to the school to ensure the safety and wellbeing of these students.

Behaviour Management - We have refined our system for managing, recording and reporting incidents of positive and negative behaviour. This system promotes a high level of consistency and fairness. Documents and resources for this system are displayed in every classroom and are used by all staff members. This system also has a strong emphasis of involving parents in the process of behaviour improvement by ensuring a high level of communication.

Students who have consistently displayed inappropriate behaviour will be placed on a behaviour monitoring card or a playground plan. This allows teachers to closely monitor patterns in behaviour, and as a result, provide intensive levels of support when needed. Students may be required to attend the planning room and discuss incidents in order to implement strategies to avoid future incidents.

I would encourage all parents and carers to regularly monitor the behaviour card ratings which have been

aligned to this new system. These cards are sent home with the students every Friday and must be returned the following Monday. The rating given by the teachers will capture the students overall behaviour according to their demonstrated classroom and playground behaviour.

Updating Contact Details - It is very important that the office has up-to-date contact details for parents and carers. If you have moved over the holidays or changed your phone number, please ensure that you let us know.

Together we can make a difference.

Jermund Zammit

Principal

Early Stage 1 Supervisor - Mrs D Jeanpierre

We celebrate the individual achievements of all students.

Class Awards - Congratulations to the following students for receiving class awards last Friday.

KC - Haylen D, Elliot B, **KDT** - Oliver, Annabelle, **KJ** - Sophie and Gunkirat K, **KL** - Isabelle and Lucas.

Parent-Teacher Interviews - **KC** - Wednesday Week 4 (19/2), **KL** and **KJ** - Tuesday Week 5 (25/2), **KFL** - Wednesday Week 5 (26/2), **KDT** - Thursday Week 5 (27/2).

Please ensure you attend these valuable meetings. Together we can set individual learning goals for your children and discuss any concerns. You will also be provided valuable pieces of information at your interview.

Library - All students will begin borrowing a book from the school library this week. Please look after these books carefully and return them the following week on your class library day. Tuesday - **KFL** and **KJ**, Wednesday - **KDT** and **KC**, Friday - **KL**.

Kindergarten Parents Morning Tea (toddlers welcome) - Please join us on Friday 28th February at 9:00am in the SAC centre for a catch up. This get together will allow you to build relationships with other parents and to discuss how school is going so far for your families. We look forward to seeing you there.

School Day - Now that the children have settled into school we require all Kindergarten students to begin each day at 9:00am and conclude at 3:00pm. Please take your child to the hall every morning where they will be supervised by a teacher from 8:30am. When the bell rings at 9:00am, the children will assemble on the coloured dots near the primary oval. Please collect your child promptly in the afternoons from under the infant's COLA. If someone other than yourself is collecting your child please let your child's teacher know.

Stage 1 Supervisor - Miss L Anderson

Parent/Teacher Interviews - Parents and carers of students in Years One and Two are invited to meet with their child's teacher to share information and set goals for the year. We value this time to connect with you and learn about your child and we hope that you can make time for these important meetings. Notes have been sent home with details on how to book a meeting time online. If you have not received a note please let your child's teacher know so that another one can be sent home.

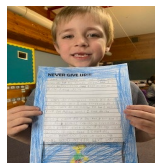
Grade/Class Information - Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2) information notes have been sent home outlining general organisation, routines and expectations and necessary supplies for the year. Class teachers will outline specific class routines and expectations during parent/teacher interviews.

Water and Hats - The weather can be very hot at the moment. Please ensure that your child brings a bottle of water to school and a hat every day. Please make sure your child's name is clearly written on any of their belongings that they bring to school.

Celebrations - Year one and two students have been learning and writing about Growth Mindset. They are learning to love challenges and persist when things get difficult. Below are some wonderful Year Two pieces of writing.



Chase B. 2A



Riley M. 2A

Stage 2 Supervisor - Mrs R Ranse

Picking Up - A reminder that Stage 2 students should be picked up from underneath the COLA area in the afternoons. All classes head to the COLA area at 2:55pm for when the home time bell goes at 3:00pm. No student will be dismissed without an early leavers pass prior to that time.

Parent/Teacher Interviews - The Stage 2 teachers are looking forward to meeting parents during interview time in the next few weeks. We would ask that you bring any necessary additional paperwork that could assist us in providing support for your child including letters from paediatricians, speech therapists, occupational therapists etc. We really do want to do the best job we can with your child and information from external professionals can be very helpful.

Stage 3 Supervisor - Mrs K Day

Stage 3 - Teachers have had a busy but very enjoyable start to the term, getting to know all their students in their new classes. Students have settled into their new classes and routines well and we are proud of them.

We look forward to meeting our parents at parent/teacher interviews which are being held in Weeks 4 and 5. Please ensure you book a time (online) to meet with your child's teacher. Parent/teacher interview dates are: **5D** - Friday 21st February 2020, **5F** - Wednesday 26th February 2020, **5R** - Wednesday 26th February 2020, **6B** - Friday 21st February 2020, **6C** - Friday 21st February 2020 and **6F** - Tuesday 25th February 2020.

Year 5 Bathurst Overnight Excursion - This excursion will be held between the 23rd - 25th September 2020. Notes will go home soon requesting an expression of interest and deposit. The cost will be approximately \$380- \$400.

Year 6 Canberra Overnight Excursion - This excursion will be held between the 4th - 6th August 2020. Notes will go home soon requesting an expression of interest and deposit. The cost will be approximately \$380- \$400.

Year 6 Selective High School Placement Tests - The test for Year 7 entry to **Selective High Schools in 2021** will be held on Thursday 12th March 2020.

Year 6 Souvenir Shirts - Notes will be sent home shortly. Students will need to try sample shirts on before they put their order in. Make sure your child selects the correct size and get their order in with payment of \$35.00 before the closing date of 7th March. There will be no reorders or spares available after the final orders are submitted.

Have a wonderful fortnight!

Special Education - Mrs S Crook

Parent/Teacher Meetings - A big thank you to all of the parents/carers who were able to come to our parent/teacher meetings this week. It was great to see so many of our parents up at the school working together with our amazing teachers. If you were unable to attend, please contact your child's teacher to make a new appointment as this is no trouble at all to organise. We will do our best to fit around you and your responsibilities. If you can't make it to the school at all, a time for a phone call can be arranged or even an email to stay in touch. We really value your input and would like to know if there are any extra goals that we can work together on with your child. Please note, Miss Luck will be having her meetings next week when she gets back to school.

New Routines for Arriving in the Morning and Leaving in the Afternoon - We have been practising some new routines with the children in the support unit in the morning and afternoon. As it is with the whole school, students should arrive at school between 8:30am and 9:00am. Please do not drop your child off into the gated area before this time as there is no supervision.

Mornings - The children have been playing outside in the break out area in the morning rather than going into the classroom, to establish the idea that outside is for playing and inside is for learning. Some students when they play inside in the morning have trouble changing from playing to learning. This way they have a physical cue that when you are in the classroom it is time for work.

Afternoons - In the afternoon, all of the children line up in the break out space behind markers. One line is for the bus and there is also a line for each class. Those children who are picked up line up in their class line. All students are dismissed at 2:45pm as this is the time that the bus comes and also because it was negotiated that the rest of the students leave at this time so that they can move out of the school safely before the 'big rush' at 3:00pm.

Great Learners - It is great to see our students learning together. Here are some of the students in K-6 G working hard in maths.



School Nurse News

Gastroenteritis - Gastroenteritis outbreak occurs when two or more people have sudden onset of vomiting or diarrhea at the same time in the same school. Last week we had a number of children sent home with vomiting. Gastroenteritis is highly difficult to control. What can you do?

1. **Hand washing** - good hand hygiene is the most effective way of preventing the spread of infection. You should wash your hands if - hands are visibly dirty, after using the toilet, after changing nappies, before eating/preparing food or if you come into contact with body fluids.
2. **Don't send your child to school** - sick children and staff should be excluded from attending the school for at least 48 hours after their symptoms have ceased.

Cleaning - Surfaces or objects that have been exposed to vomit or faeces must be thoroughly cleaned as soon as possible. Wash the surface or object with hot water and a neutral detergent. Allow objects to dry thoroughly after they have been cleaned.

Community Liaison Officer - Miss J Daunt

Volunteers for Breakfast Club - If you able to help on Tuesday's from 8:30am - 9:00am please email jasmine.daunt3@det.nsw.edu.au.

Morning Tea - All parents/carers of Kindergarten 2020 students are welcome to a morning tea in the SaCC on Friday 28th February at 9:00am.

Sport News

Swimming - Our school swimming champions for 2020 are - **Junior** - Amelia K and Nate O, **11yrs** - Jacob H and Bridget D, **12yrs** - Jorjah C and Hudson L.

The winning House was Buck followed closely by Brooks. We have 12 students who have qualified for Zone which will be held at Mingara on Wednesday 4th March. There is no cost for competitors and it is the responsibility of parents and cares to arrange travel to and from the carnival. Congratulations to all our swimmers.

School News

School Photo Day Wednesday 26th February - Please read the information on MSP Photography payment envelopes. You can pay for all children in one envelope but each child has to hand their own envelope in on the day.

Family Envelopes - These are available at the school office.

Credit Card Payments - These can be made on line and you will need your personalised shoot key located on your child's envelope to place the order.

Enquires contact: email admin.nhvcc@msh.com.au
Or phone: +61 2 4966 8292 www.msh.com.au

Premier's Reading Challenge Years 3 – 6 – The 2020 Premier's Reading Challenge opens on Monday 2nd March. You can keep track of books you have been reading over the summer to be added to your reading log once the challenge opens. Anything you have read from 31st August 2019 can be counted towards the 2020 PRC. Students in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 classes will complete the challenge with their teachers in class.

PLEASE NOTE: There have been updates to a number of PRC Challenge Rules. Please ensure you have familiarised yourself with these on the rules page (<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/rules.html>) before the Challenge opens.

Key dates - Challenge opens for student entries on Monday 2nd March. Challenge closes for student entries on Friday 28th August.

PRIVACY INFORMATION:

In order to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge, students must have approval to access the internet and have an online account. Students who do not have permission for online access should take part in the Challenge unofficially.

When a student enters the Challenge, they become eligible for a certificate. Certificates have the student's name and school printed on them. Due to child protection issues, an Honour Roll is no longer published on the Premier's Reading Challenge website.

Parenting Ideas

Working closely with your child's teacher this year

In my work as a presenter and educator I've visited hundreds of schools, spoken with hundreds of school leaders and worked with many educational innovators and researchers at the forefront of modern education. These people and experiences have given me valuable insights into what makes great schools tick.

Strong parent–teacher relationships are one of the hallmarks of all great schools. They're a major contributor to student success. The research into schooling across the Western world reveals that positive parent–teacher partnerships are a more significant factor in student success than parent income levels or social status.

However, parent–teacher relationships require effort and energy from both parties if they are going to really benefit children and young people.

Way to help form strong bonds with your child's teachers this year:

Knowing (building affinity)

Know – the first element – requires you to be both proactive and patient. *Proactive because you need to be willing to meet and work at maintaining relationships. Patient because it may take some time to build a working relationship.* For your partnership to be meaningful and successful you need to meet with your children's teacher(s) with the goal of forming a respectful professional relationship. Share your aspirations for your child and be willing to build the teacher's knowledge about your family.

Get to know your child's teachers' aspirations and gain an understanding of their approach and the focus they have for this particular year group. Also commit to continuing to know what's going on in the life of your child's classrooms as well as the life of the school on an ongoing basis.

Supporting (building trust)

Children need to know that you are fully behind what their teachers are trying to achieve if they are going to commit fully to learning. The best way to support your child's teacher is to trust their knowledge, professionalism and experience. Avoid the temptation to question the expertise of teachers in front of students, particularly when the teachers use methods that you are unfamiliar with. Initiate conversations with teachers around methodology to give them the chance to explain the approach they are taking.

Participating (building links to student learning)

Participation – the third element – takes into account the level of parent engagement in student learning. There's a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent engagement in student learning and their educational success. If you want your child to improve his learning, take an interest in what he is doing. Follow school and teacher guidelines about helping at home and attend as many conferences, meetings and events involving your child as possible. This simple strategy has a significant, long-term impact.

Communicating (building relationships)

Life's not always smooth sailing for kids of any age. Family circumstances change. Friends move away. Illness happens. Mental health challenges can hit anyone at any time. These changes affect learning. Keep teachers up to date with significant changes or difficulties that your child or young person experiences so they can accommodate your child's emotional and learning needs at school.

Advocating (building loyalty)

Advocacy – the last element – means that you talk teachers and your school up rather than tear them down among children and the wider community. Teachers hold very public positions and generally work hard to build good reputations both within their school and their wider education community. Consider a teacher's reputation among the community and also with children when you discuss educational matters with others.

Building parent–teacher relationships doesn't just happen. They take good will from both sides, a commitment to setting aside the time necessary to support the home-based learning tasks that are expected, and a willingness to communicate both concerns and commendations through the correct channels.

Parent–teacher relationships – long may they prosper!

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