



Gorokan Public School

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Principal: Jesmond Zammit

Term 2 | Week 6

Wednesday 3rd June 2020

NEWSLETTER

Dates to Remember

Friday, 3 th July	Last day of Term 2
Monday 20 th July	School Development Day (Pupil Free)
Tuesday 21 st July	First day of Term 3 for students

Principal's Report

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Gorokan Public School we share a deep appreciation of our supportive and understanding community. With so many changes happening in our daily lives due to the pandemic, the school too has had to adapt to ensure the health and wellbeing of the students, staff and the broader community. I would like you to know that the support that you have provided the school has allowed for initiatives to be implemented in a timely and thorough manner – which has resulted in an outstanding example of what great things can be achieved when schools work hand in hand with their communities.

Community Updates – Thank you for engaging in the community updates over the past months. The aim of these short videos was to keep our community informed of the key initiatives that were being implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As students were not in attendance at school, our regular means of weekly communication namely the school newsletter, became redundant. In addition to these communication updates we learnt the power of bulk texts being sent home as an effective communication strategy and the phone calls to families each week by our wonderful teachers kept learning on track and allowed for home-school connection to be maintained. The staff have reported to me how wonderful this has been in their efforts to work in partnership with home to facilitate the best possible learning outcomes for their students.

The daily live chats with the students via video conferencing were thoroughly enjoyed by all and

extremely popular with the students. The parent chats provided a further opportunity for clarification of pandemic response initiatives and human connection. Thank you to everyone involved in these sessions.

Flexible Learning Program – I could not be prouder of the school's educational program over the learning from home period. The teachers did not waste a minute in adapting their rigorous face-to-face program for the students to access from home. The program was so good that it attracted the attention of educators across the world and the school was featured in the media as a result; on the radio and newspapers. The school will also feature in the next addition of the Department's T4L (Technology for Learning) magazine for our innovative use of technology for learning and communication during the pandemic. Congratulations team Gorokan!

A video was recently shared on our Facebook page capturing some highlights of our response @ <https://youtu.be/cwhVWDZEF5I>

Drop Off and Pick Up – Another area of community appreciation and pride is the response to our new drop off and pick up organisation. The Kiss and Drop zone on Dudley Street should be utilised whenever possible as this is a really safe and efficient way to drop off and collect your children. The zone is manned by staff at all times before and after school. I know this is new to many of you but I would urge you to try it. If the zone is full just drive around the block, the staff will be there supervising the students until they are picked up.

Remember to talk to your children about what your afternoon pickup arrangements are each day. The options are:

1. Kiss and Drop;
2. Parent pick up – waiting at one of the colour coded posts along the fence line on Dudley Street or at the back gate;
3. Walk or ride home;
4. Bus, and/or
5. After school care.

Staff organise the students into these lines before the students are brought out to the gates so clear communication with your child about which of these

Early Stage One – Mrs D Jeanpierre

options they need to remember for the afternoon is very important.

K-2 students and their siblings will continue to exit the school at 2:30pm each day and 3-6 students or students who are in K-2 whose parents can't make the earlier time, at 3:00pm.

If you are meeting your children along the fence, please pack an umbrella so that if it rains you are prepared.

Personal Health and Hygiene – We will continue to encourage all students to adhere to the following in the interest of maintaining a healthy school environment:

1. Stay at home if you are sick;
2. Clean your hands throughout the day;
3. Sneeze into your elbow or tissue, and
4. Do not share belongings and equipment.

Please remember to inform the school of any suspected or confirmed cases of the coronavirus to offset the potential further spread of infection.

Reconciliation Week – Social distancing restrictions meant that this year's Reconciliation Day assembly was done via video conferencing to every class. The theme for this year is aptly titled "In this Together". The message to all students was one of pride in Aboriginal culture and heritage as well as the importance of everyone's efforts to get along.



Photo: Bailey W, Luke W, Jesmond Zammit, Kingston S, Hannah T, Imalla D

Congratulations to all members of our incredible school community – students, staff, parents and carers for your positivity, efforts and collective achievements.

Together we can make a difference.

Jesmond Zammit

Principal



Current Learning

- English – Students are learning to write simple sentences independently, using their knowledge of letter sounds and sight words, whilst leaving spaces between words. Some students are beginning to use the word 'and' to join two ideas to form one sentence. Maths – Adding and subtracting two groups of objects and sorting objects to make equal groups.



Photo: Ava S and Mrs Lagendyk

Reminders

- **Home Reading** – Please return your child's blue reading folder this week. Your teacher can provide the Term 2 reading card for you to sign each time you support your child to read their own book. This can be a book from home or school. We strongly encourage your child to read texts from their online PM eCollection. Please return the card to school when your child reaches the milestones indicated.
- **Drink Bottles** – Please send a drink bottle with your child to school each day. They are able to refill it with chilled water from the water fountain when required.
- **iPad** – Please send headphones in to school for your child to use with iPads

Celebration of Learning

- Congratulations to the following students for receiving class awards last week; **KJ** – Santino and Maddy, **KL** – Anabelle and Aaliyah, **KD/T** – Noah and Harry, **KF/L** – Hannah and Braith, **KC** – Liam and Layla.

Stage 1 Supervisor - Mrs L Anderson

Current Learning

- **Week 6** – Spelling – Focus: m, mm, Blends: sm, mp, Grammar – Endings: adding 'ed' and 'ing' Patterns: ump, amp, Writing – informative writing, reading – reading daily, Maths – addition and subtraction.
- **Week 7** – Spelling Focus: i_e, y, Patterns: ide, ine, ice, ike, ight, Grammar – time connectives, Writing – persuasive writing, reading – reading daily, Maths – multiplication and division.

Reminders

- **Change in Routine** – Well done to all our Stage One students who have been following the new afternoon routines so effectively. If you need to change your routine in the afternoon, please ensure your child knows exactly how they are getting home.
- **Sport** – Year 1 and 2 sport will remain on Tuesday afternoons for the remainder of Term 2.
- **Organisational Skills** – We are encouraging all our students to increase their organisational skills by taking full responsibility for their belongings. Hats and jumpers are a particular issue as many are being lost without names. Please ensure they have their name and class labelled on their belongings and encourage your child to take full responsibility for these throughout the day.

Celebration of Learning

- Stage One would like to send our sincere thanks and appreciation to our incredible families throughout home learning. We are so happy to have our students back in our classes and would like to acknowledge the incredible support that our families provided during home learning. We could not have done it without you!

Stage 2 Supervisor - Mrs R Ranse

Welcome Back – On behalf of the Stage 2 teachers, we would like to welcome back our fabulous students and their parents. We are all very impressed with the commitment to the schoolwork that the students have shown, which is visible by the amount of work that was submitted either through the school website or the Google Classroom. Congratulations on your efforts and well done.

Current Learning

- Stage two students are currently working on the slides developed by teachers during the time of COVID-19. In Mathematics, we are focused on developing automaticity with number skills. In English, students are learning about Aboriginal Dreamtime stories, which ties in well with our History unit on Australia's First Peoples.

Reminders

- **Uniform** – A reminder that with the cold weather, students need a school jumper each day. The jumper needs to be navy blue and should not have a hood on it due to safety reasons.
- **Year 5 Opportunity Class 2021** – Are you thinking of applying for Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2021 for your child? If so, you must apply online at the following address before 5:00pm on Friday 26th June 2020.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/.../selective-high-school.../year-5>

The website for applying opens on Tuesday 9th June 2020. Further information on opportunity classes can be found at <https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/.../Fact%20sheet%20for%...>

An 'intention to apply' letter will be sent home to all Year 4 students tomorrow. Please complete the form if you are intending to apply and an information booklet will be sent home. Please note - parents MUST apply for their own child online.

Stage 3 Supervisor - Mrs K Day

Welcome Back – A huge welcome back everyone! All Stage 3 staff were excited to welcome our students back last week. It was terrific to see all our students, their smiling faces and to catch up on their adventures and efforts whilst learning from home. We are super proud of all their efforts and sincerely would like to thank you - our student families, for your assistance, support, patience and overall resilience during these unprecedented times.

Current Learning

- Students are settling into their classes and back into their routines. We are enjoying face-to-face learning and teaching opportunities with students being able to access technology.
- **Week 6 Focus** – In English this week students in Stage 3 are focusing on Soundwaves - m, mm, mb, Writing – Imaginative, Reading - Super 6 Strategies, Maths – Mass (Year 5) and Whole Number – Factors (Year 6), HSIE - Australian Gold Rush (Year 5) and Australian Systems of Govt (Year 6), Science & Technology - Earth's place in Space.
- **Week 7 Focus** – Soundwaves Focus - i, i_e, y, igh, ie, Writing - Informative, Reading - Super 6 Strategies, Maths - Addition & Subtraction (Year 5) and Fractions & Decimals (Year 6), HSIE - Australian Gold Rush (Year 5) and Australian Systems of Govt (Year 6), Science & Technology - Earth's place in Space.
- All Stage 3 classes have been revising and implementing our school expectations of being **safe**, being **respectful** and being a **learner**. This has included revisiting our Behaviour Management Plan and we encourage you to speak to your child about our school expectations.

Reminders

- **Year 6 Transition to High School (Gorokan High School)** – Due to COVID-19 circumstances and group visitation/ gathering limits our normal Transition to High School program has had some major changes for this year.
- Gorokan High School provided us with a transition video that all Year 6 students watched in class last week. This transition video will be uploaded to each individual Year 6 Google Classroom for your child to watch with you at home.

- **Q & A Questionnaire** – Gorokan High School will distribute a Q&A questionnaire for our students and families to complete Term 2 Week 6 (Gorokan High School will film their responses via a video to be shared with both students and their families in the coming weeks).
- **Gorokan High School Showcase Evening** – At this stage this event has been cancelled. They are busily developing a website to share with families that will replace this. We will share the link with you as soon as it is ready.
- **Equipment for Learning** – Please ensure your child brings a drink bottle and their own writing instruments (pens, pencils etc) to school every day.
- **Year 5 Bathurst & Year 6 Canberra Excursions** – Unfortunately, both our Year 5 Bathurst and our Year 6 Canberra excursions have been cancelled for this year due to COVID-19 circumstances. We are hoping to organise incursions and possibly other day trip excursions when there are no limitations due to restrictions later in the year.

Celebration of Learning

- Week 5 Student of the Week Awards; **5D** – Tyler B, **5F** – Cooper B, **5R** – Kiralee P-B, **6B** – Cody M, **6C** – Gordan C, **6F** Shakayla M.

If you have any questions or concerns please phone your child's class teacher.

Have a wonderful fortnight!

Special Education – Mrs S Crook

Current Learning

- Our students enjoyed participating in our online assembly to celebrate National Reconciliation Week on Wednesday. The theme this year is *In This Together*. Afterwards we participated in some great discussions and also created some beautiful artworks.



Reminders

- **Arriving and Exiting School Premises** – Thank you all for helping us with our new procedures for drop off in the morning and pick up in the afternoon. Your patience and support has really helped this new system work and the children enter and leave the school in a very happy and calm manner.

Celebration of Learning

- Although we have not had a formal assembly this week due to the social distancing measures that the

school has put in place, our students have been working very hard and producing some great work in their classrooms. The following students have shown me some great examples of learning this week; Jackson, Jarvis, Jordin, Tyson, Noah B and Ryland.

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden



Thank you to Mr Holley for doing such a wonderful job looking after our beautiful chickens over the past 2 months.

Weekly Recipe



Banana Bread

Season: All

Makes: 36 small muffins

Fresh from the garden: bananas, eggs

Equipment:

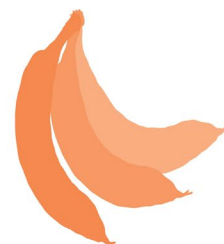
metric measuring cups and spoons
bowls – 2 medium, 2 large
whisk
wooden spoon
2 forks
3 × 12-basin muffin trays
baking paper cases, to fit muffin trays
spatula
wire cooling rack
serving platter

Ingredients:

3 eggs, beaten until frothy
1 cup brown sugar
1 tsp vanilla essence
½ cup sunflower oil
3 bananas, mashed with a fork
2 cups plain flour
1 tsp cinnamon
2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
½ tsp salt
¼ tsp baking powder
butter (optional, for greasing muffin trays)

What to do:

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C.
2. Prepare all of the ingredients based on the instructions in the ingredients list.
3. Mix the eggs, sugar, vanilla essence and oil in a large bowl, then add the bananas.
4. In another large bowl, mix all the dry ingredients together with a clean fork.
5. Add the banana mix to the dry mix and gently combine.
6. Line muffin trays with baking paper, or grease with a light coating of butter.
7. Pour the mixture into muffin trays, three-quarters full for each basin.
8. Bake for 20 minutes.
9. Remove onto a wire cooling rack. Allow to cool, then serve on a platter.



Working together to
grow healthy kids

Successfully transitioning students back to school

The recent home-schooling experience of Australian students is about to end with most states and territories transitioning kids back to school. For parents, many of whom have discovered just how complex teaching can be, the return to school will be a welcome relief. For children, going back to school may bring a mixed bag of feelings. Eager anticipation about reconnecting with friends and teachers will probably be accompanied by a level of anxiety about what school may be like upon return.

School undoubtedly will be a different experience for students post COVID-19. For a start they've just experienced a prolonged period of remote learning and an absence from their friends, which will take time to process when they return to school.

With organised extra-curricular activities put on hold most children have had a great deal of free time, which has placed the locus of control firmly in their hands. I suspect many kids will grieve their lack of freedom, as they've had a glorious glimpse of what an unstructured life is like. It may take some time for them to get back into the swing of school life.

With the return to school imminent here are some sensible strategies to make adjustment easier for students.

Get ready for a return

Worriers and anxious types in particular like to know what's ahead so your approach will make a difference. Prepare your child for a return by discussing the safety procedures the school will be implementing. Let young children know that an adult won't be accompanying them past the school gate. Ask your child what they are looking forward to and check in with how they are feeling about a return. Validate any fears and apprehensions and correct any misconceptions.

Go slowly

This period will mirror the start of the school year when your child had to adjust to new teachers, different classmates and a new year level. Adjusting to change takes a great deal of personal energy, so your child or young person may become tired, grumpy, even moody at home. Make allowances for these personal changes and make sure they have plenty of free time to unwind after school.

Focus on reconnection

Make reconnection the theme for your child's return to school. He or she will have to reconnect with friends, teachers and learning, which takes time. In all likelihood, your child's teachers will use many strategies to help your child connect with their friends, reflect on their time at home and move them back into full-time learning mode. Support these activities and keep your learning expectations for your child in check.

It may take the rest of the term for some children to adjust to their life back at school.

Stay calm

Anxiety is very contagious, so it's easy for us as parents to take on our children's worries and fears. The reverse is true, and kids can pick up our worries, taking them on as their own. As a buffer against anxiety ensure you do something each day that brings you some joy, whether it's listening to music, going for a walk or having a coffee with a friend.

Look after yourself

In recent months parents and teachers have been doing significant emotional labour. The learning and adjustment curves have been massive, with little time to relax and take a break. Consider your own emotional resources and make your wellbeing a priority, which will make it easier for you to stay calm if your child experiences difficulties.

Communicate confidence

It's a fine line that many parents walk between being flippant ('you'll be right') and showing confidence ('you'll do okay') when kids struggle to adjust to change. My research into childhood anxiety reveals that children and young people want parents and teachers to understand their fears and anxieties, and to coach them to negotiate difficulties including adjusting to change. You can support your child through sharing stories of resilience, focusing on the positives and letting them know that will eventually adjust.

The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown up many difficulties requiring us all to quickly adapt to new situations. Flexibility is a prime characteristic of resilient people, so if nothing else, getting through these challenging times will make us all more resilient.

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