



Term 2 | Week 8
Wednesday 17th June 2020

NEWSLETTER

Gorokan Public School

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Principal: Jesmond Zammit



Dates to Remember

Friday 26 th June	Online applications close for opportunity class (Stage 2)
Thursday, 2 nd July	Student reports sent home
Friday, 3 rd 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
Wednesday 16 th September	Opportunity class exam (Stage 2)

Principal's Report

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Gorokan Public School we believe that equipping students with different pathways to learning, including innovative use of technology, provides opportunities for increased engagement and success in learning now and in the future.



This status is awarded to schools that are using Google for Education tools in creative, innovative or exemplary ways. Google reference school status provides recognition of our use of technology in the classroom to positively impact the education of our students and their learning. It also recognises the way that we use Google tools to share, explore and collaborate as a staff.

As a reference school we can display the Google Reference School badge, can test new products and be a point of reference for other educators and schools who wish to know more about using [Google for Education](https://www.google.com/edu) tools.

This recognition reflects a growing level of confidence and competence within our IT users, whether they be

administration staff, students or teaching staff. They have all trained, explored and regularly use the tools for collaboration and to aid learning and school administration.

Congratulations team Gorokan!

Return to Face-to-Face Learning – The Department of Education regularly releases information to schools in relation to continued face-to-face learning and restrictions relating to the pandemic. In brief, only a few changes will be introduced this term, changing very little to what restrictions are already in place. I will make every effort to minimise the amount of changes so that when changes occur, they will remain in place for the long term as opposed to several changes which could potentially cause undue angst and confusion.

The Dept's latest recommendations are as follows:

- School assemblies can resume with limited timeframes (15 minutes max);
- No external visitors, including parents;
- Choirs and performing arts at school, with safety protocols in place;
- Students may attend other schools for essential curriculum related reasons or placements;
- Incursions/external providers can provide activities that support delivery of curriculum, and
- Day field trips to outdoor locations.

Current School Initiatives include:

- **Eating lunch for students will occur after play time, and**
- Breakfast Club re-opened in Week 8.

Changes that come into effect from Term 3, Tuesday 21st July 2020:

- Inter-school student events and competitions (choirs, sport, debating, public speaking), and
- School Religious Education (scripture) lessons will recommence.

School Initiatives include:

- **K-2 (and their older siblings) new pick up time of 2:45pm;**
- **A common whole school interactive timetable with related lesson content overviews will be**

provided to all students for all lessons with the exception of PE and sport, and

- **A new positive behaviour system** will be introduced replacing the green card system (refer to detailed explanation below).

If you have any questions regarding any of the information provided, please feel free to contact the school for clarification.

Harvard Scholarship – This time last year, I was about to embark upon an opportunity of a lifetime to attend Harvard as a recipient of the Public Education Foundation Principals’ Scholarship. I was fortunate to have had the opportunity at the time, to make an address to those in attendance, giving me the platform to share my professional insight on what makes for success in schools, namely human connection. Who was to know what the following year would bring and how important this topic would become in ensuring the ongoing success of our students in their remote learning, with our school and community working hand in hand to make learning happen and in the sharing of support for one another? My address was recorded and can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TO-QIU8BnI8>



Photo - Proudly Public Awards Ceremony Sydney Town Hall, June 2019.

NEW - Positive Behaviour System

We will be introducing an exciting new positive behaviour reinforcement program from the beginning of Term 3.

How it works:

- Students will receive a classroom behaviour circle level each day and points will be given depending on which circle they finish on. This will replace the green weekly behaviour monitoring rating card that was sent home each week.
- Students can also earn points for positive behaviour during RFF lessons and playtimes.
- Points are recorded daily on Class Dojo – which parents can access.
- Points accumulate throughout the year.
- Students are provided with rewards as they reach certain levels – these reward days occur in Week 5 and 10 of each term. This will replace the old system whereby students who fell below a certain level were excluded. Every student will have a reward

that matches the level they have achieved – no exclusion.

- Merit awards and wrist bands will be given out to celebrate when students reach a new level.

Semester 1 Reports – As explained previously, this semester’s report will be different from the report you would usually receive at this time of the year due to the impact of the pandemic. In alignment with the Department’s recommendations, the A-E scale for academic achievement has not been applied. Whilst the teachers have gradually been assessing the students, every effort has been made to reduce anxiety that could ensue from over assessing on the students’ return to school and instead, the teachers have put their energy into reconnecting with their students and re-establishing solid classroom routines. Specific feedback about student progress will be communicated to parents and carers during parent teacher interviews which will occur remotely, early next term. Information will be sent home about the scheduling of these meetings shortly. The reports will capture student participation and will reflect their efforts with parent input adding to the value of the reports. They are due to be sent home on Thursday 2nd July.

Finally, I will be taking leave in the last week of the term and Deputy Principal, Jason Clenton will relieve as Principal in my absence. I sincerely thank you for the incredible teamwork and positivity over the past term and congratulate you for your efforts towards supporting Dept and school initiatives over this time, and always. I trust that you, the students and staff have a well-deserved and enjoyable holiday and I look forward to reconnecting with you when school resumes for all students on Tuesday 21st July.

Together we can make a difference.

Jermond Zammit

Principal

Early Stage One – Mrs D Jeanpierre

Current Learning

- **English** – To become familiar with all letter sounds and common sight words while spelling. Please use the SOUND CARD provided to support your child with this focus.

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p
q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x
y	z	is and a	the for on	I went this	am to can	we like in	are my see

- **Writing** – To join two ideas together using ‘and’ as the conjunction to write a sentence.
- **Maths** – To make and share equal groups of objects. To identify whole numbers and objects, parts and halves.

Reminders

- **Headphones** – Please label and send in a set of headphones for your child to use when accessing technology at school. This helps to minimise noise within the classroom and improve their concentration.
- **Blue Reading Folders** – Please return your child’s blue reading folder weekly to borrow new home readers and continue to sign your child’s Term 2 home reading card. Students can read a book from home or school, however we strongly encourage your child to read texts from their online PM e-Collection. 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.

Celebration of Learning

- Congratulations to the following students for receiving class awards; **KJ** – Sophie, Lincoln, Noah and Gunkirat Kaur, **KL** – Lucas, Oliver, Reilly and Kiara, **KD/T** – Ashton, Adrian, Willow and Harrison, **KF/L** – Aynsley, Byron, Phoenix and Kanisha, **KC** – Hareem, Taitum, Jaxon and Lailahni.

Stage 1 Supervisor - Mrs L Anderson

Current Learning

- **Week 8** – Spelling Focus: n, nn, kn, ng Blends: sn Patterns: ing, ang, ong, ung. Grammar Focus: Antonyms. Writing Focus: Imaginative Writing. Maths Focus: Area.
- **Week 9** – Spelling Focus: o, oa, o_e, Patterns: old, one, ope, ose, oke. Grammar Focus: Homophones. Writing Focus: Informative Writing. Maths Focus: 2D Space.

Reminders

- **Change in Routine** – Well done to all our Stage One students who have been following the new routines so effectively. If you need to change your routine in the afternoon, please ensure your child knows exactly how they are getting home.
- **Fruit Break** – This week we began new play and eating times which our students have responded very well to. Please remember to pack fruit break daily for your child.
- **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. If your child will be absent for more than two days please contact the school by phone or via the school app to let us know.

- **Toy Donations** – At recess and lunch playtimes we run an indoor playgroup for students. We would love for our playgroup to have a variety of toys available for children to play with. If you, family or friends have any toys that are in good condition but no longer played with, we would happily take them off your hands and put them to good use in our playgroup. We are looking for toys for building and investigating, cars and trucks, construction toys and games suitable for 4 to 7 year old children. If you have any please send them in to your child’s teacher and they will get a big “THANK YOU” from us all!
- **Organisational Skills** – Please encourage your child to take 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 them to take full responsibility for these throughout the day.

Celebration of Learning

- The Stage One teachers would like to congratulate all Year One and Two students on their improvement in walking around the school quietly and respectfully.

Stage 2 Supervisor - Mrs R Ranse

Current Learning

- **Weeks 6 - 7** – During the course of the last two weeks, students in Stage 2 have continued to enjoy engaging with a wide variety of Aboriginal Dreamtime stories, allowing them to delve into the culture, languages, art and history of Aboriginal people. For Weeks 8 and 9, we move onto looking at informative texts in the form of newspaper reports. We will be looking at their purpose, the audiences they are written for, structure and the language used. In Mathematics Year 3 will be learning about place value and how zero is very important as a place value holder. Year 4 will be learning to write numbers in expanded and contracted form.

Reminders

- **Opportunity Classes** – A reminder that if your child is intending on sitting the examination for entry to an opportunity class in 2021, the 'intention to apply' letter needs to be returned to school as soon as possible. Additionally, all applications need to be made online by parents by the closing date of Friday 26th June 2020 at 5:00pm. The test will be held on Wednesday 16th September 2020.
- **Drink Bottles** – Please ensure that your child has their own drink bottle and set of headphones each day.

Celebration of Learning

- Congratulations to the following students for receiving class awards this week; **3L** – Lucas, Vienna and Saxon, **3P** – Aleah and Ryan, **3M** – Tahnee and Amarlee, **4M** – Taylor and Lilli, **4W** – Lilah and Nina-Juliet, **4R** - Isabella and Sophia.

Stage 3 Supervisor - Mrs K Day

Current Learning

- 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. We have embarked on a change of routine for bell times with students having break one at 11:00 – 11:30am and then eating time from 11:30 – 11:40am daily. It is really important that all **students bring fruit break with them daily** as they will not be eating until approximately 11:30am.

Reminders

- **Supplies** – 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 on in the year.



Celebration of Learning

- A huge congratulations to all our Stage 3 students over this past fortnight. You have all been amazing. Keep up your great efforts! 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

- **Poetry** – Our students enjoyed participating in writing tasks and have produced some quality acrostic poems. Below are some examples of quality work.

<p>Excellent Loves his Mum Is good at soccer</p> 	 <p>Terrific Tyson Yells So cool Only he rocks Not slow at running</p>	<p>Jackson is my friend Umbrellas keep me dry Superstar soccer player Trains are fun I'm cool Nice friend</p>
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Reminders

- **Clothing and Personal Items** – Please make sure that all of your child’s belongings and clothing items are clearly marked with their name. Now that children are wearing jumpers, they are being taken off during the day and unable to be found and identified when they are needed again.
- **Breakfast Club** – Now that our social distancing regulations are easing, we are excited to get our breakfast club back up and running. Extra hygiene procedures have been put in place, surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected as before and students will be given extra opportunities to sanitise their hands before they touch their food. For the rest of this term we will be serving toast and cereal for breakfast. Students will be able to drop in and pick up some food and take it to their classroom to eat before the bell rings.

Celebration of Learning

- Although we have not had a formal assembly this week due to the social distancing measures, our students have been working very hard and producing some great work in their classrooms. The following students have demonstrated great learning this week; Jarvis, Kaia, Issac, Claudia, Noah H and Jackson.

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden



Friendships in the Kitchen Garden

Potato, Leek & Spinach Torte

Season: Summer/Autumn
Makes: 30 tastes or 6 serves at home

Fresh from the garden: dill, eggs, leek, parsley, potato, silverbeet

The crust of this savoury torte is filled with vegetables, herbs and cheese.

Notes: You can substitute the vegetables and herbs in this versatile torte recipe with whatever is bountiful in your garden. Little ones can tear the veggies and herbs with their hands, or snip them with scissors.

<p>EQUIPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> metric measuring scales, cups and spoons clean tea towel chopping board cook's knife vegetable peeler grater whisk bowls – 1 small, 1 medium, 1 large fork mixing spoon plastic wrap small saucepan colander potato masher wooden spoon 4 baking trays baking paper rolling pin pastry brush serving platters 	<p>INGREDIENTS</p> <p>For the pastry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 tbsp olive oil 1 cup cold water 600 g plain flour, plus extra for dusting ½ tsp salt <p>For the filling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 medium-sized potato, peeled and quartered 8 stalks silverbeet, leaves and stems finely sliced 1 leek, finely sliced 1 handful of parsley, roughly chopped 1 handful of dill fronds, roughly chopped 250 g mozzarella, grated 1 tbsp olive oil, plus some extra for brushing ¼ tsp ground nutmeg 2 tsp salt, plus a pinch for salting water pepper, to taste 2 eggs, lightly beaten
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WHAT TO DO

To make the pastry:

- Mix the oil and the water in the small bowl with the fork.
- Mix the flour and the salt in the large bowl. Create a well in the centre.
- Add the oil and water mixture to the well.
- Use your hands to incorporate the liquid into the flour until the dough forms a ball.
- Transfer the dough to a floured workbench and knead for a minute.
- Wrap the dough in plastic wrap and set aside.





Healthy living starts here

Collaborative parenting style wins the day during COVID-19

The close quarter living that most of us have experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic has tested the patience and communications skills of even the most assured parent. The constancy of members living together is a test of family management skills, revealing any flaws or limitations that exist.

Those that rely on a coercive (“do as I say”) approach probably discovered that dominance works well in small doses, but fails miserably over the long-term, with family harmony severely impacted.

Parents who use a laissez-faire (“she’ll be right”) approach may have found that one or more children struggled with a lack of structure. In the absence of positive leadership, a child more than likely stepped up to fill the void, rendering parents with limited influence.

Those who used a parallel (“you go your way, I’ll go mine”) approach may have experienced a relatively quiet parental existence, but this will more than likely come at the expense of group cohesion and children’s mental health.

Collaborative family leadership

Life in the family cocoon has suited parents that use a more inclusive, collaborative parenting style. This is a style that gives children a voice, commensurate with their developmental stages, in how the family conducts itself.

Features of a collaborative family

Parents who adopt a collaborative approach impact family culture in positive ways, so that their family becomes a collaborative unit. Here are some features shared by collaborative families:

Respect is a key value

This style of leadership treats kids with respect but importantly, expects respectful, considerate behaviour from children in return. When kids fail or forget to practise respectful

treatment of others they are respectfully brought into line and reminded of their responsibility to others.

Kids contribute

Kids in collaborative families generally help out without being paid. A jobs’ roster is the preferred method for ensuring kids contribute as authority is diverted from parent and rests with the group instead.

Language is cooperative

Parents who adopt a collaborative approach generally use language that invites children to cooperate. They also use the word “We” a great deal. “We’re relying on you to set the table before dinner” reminds a child or teenager of their contribution to the family good.

Rituals are strong

Collaborative families also use rituals such as mealtimes, special days and the like to build strong family bonds. These structured get-togethers are balanced with plenty of informal, fun activities where members can enjoy each other’s company.

Decision-making is shared

Most parents who successfully adopt a collaborative leadership style have a process that engages kids in family decision-making and resolution of conflict between siblings. A regular family meeting or council is a common forum used by collaborative family leaders. These meetings may take time to get right and some effort to convince all family members of their benefits, however once they’re embedded they become an invaluable part of a family’s culture.

There are many ways and methods you can use to successfully raise a family, however not every method stands up to the scrutiny close of quarter living we’ve been encountering. With more time at our disposal, a wonderful opportunity exists to implement a collaborative leadership style, that will bring benefits well after the COVID-19 pandemic.

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