



Term 2 | Week 10
 Wednesday 1st July 2020
NEWSLETTER

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



Dates to Remember

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
27 th July – 14 th August	Parent/teacher phone interviews
3 rd August – 7 th August	Education Week
Wednesday 16 th September	Opportunity class exam (Stage 2)
18 th – 15 th November	NAIDOC Week

Principal's Report

Dear Parents and carers,

Term 2 has required ongoing innovation and co-operation and I would like to thank the entire Gorokan community for the way you have supported the school during this time. While many activities have been unable to occur during the term, we were pleased to hold our annual Pyjama Day and enjoy an online musical workshop by Musica Viva.



Photo: Pyjama Day 2020

Term 3 Pick-Up Times – From the start of Term 3 our K-2 students and siblings will be dismissed at **2:45pm** and all other students will be dismissed at **3:00pm**. The routines established this term will continue with teachers escorting children to parents and carers. It is imperative that once you have collected your children

that you leave the pick-up area promptly. Please continue to utilise the Kiss and Drop zone as this is the preferred socially distanced option.

Playground Improvements – Our school has continued to see major improvements in the playground. All playground courts and asphalt areas have been re-surfaced and re-marked. We now have a new student gym, two new basketball courts, changeable netball and basketball hoops, multiple handball courts and a new synthetic tennis court. The children have thoroughly enjoyed using these new areas.



Photo: Year 6 students enjoying our new student gym

Semester 1 Reports – A simplified Semester 1 report will be sent home with students on Thursday 2nd July. The reports will capture student participation and will reflect their efforts with parent input. Specific feedback about student progress will be communicated to parents and carers during parent teacher phone interviews which will occur in Week 2, 3 and 4 next term. We will send out an online booking link in Week 1.

Finally, I sincerely thank our extraordinary teachers and staff who have continued to work tirelessly this term. We all look forward to welcoming our students back when school resumes at 9:00am on Tuesday 21st July. Mr Zammit will return from leave in Week 1 next term.

Mr Jason Clenton
 Deputy Principal



Photo- Year 3 students enjoying Musica Viva

Early Stage One – Mrs D Jeanpierre

Current Learning

- **Learning Focus** – Celebrating Aboriginal culture and traditions.
- **Holiday Focus** – Please read with your child/children daily and continue to practise sight words and alphabet letter sounds. Keeping a simple journal over the holiday period then sharing it in Week 1 with their class would be ideal for students continued learning.

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 Folder** – 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 in the previous fortnight; **KJ** – Rozie and Ty, **KL** – Gavin, Eric, Mia and Noah, **KD/T** – Emma, Ethan, Taliah and Noah, **KF/L** – Blair, Riley, Daniel, Ella, Fineeva, Noah and Evie, **KC** – Mia and Haylen.

Stage 1 Supervisor - Mrs L Anderson

Current Learning

- **Learning Focus** – Spelling - p, pp, r, rr, wr. Blends pl, pr, sp. Grammar Focus - Simple to super sentences. Writing Focus – Persuasive writing. Maths Focus – This week is a consolidation week in maths where most classes will focus on whole number and addition and subtraction skills.

Reminders

- **Fruit Break** – We have begun our new play and eating times which our students have responded very well to. Please remember to pack fruit daily for your child as they will not eat again until 11:30am.
- **Home Reading** – We are encouraging all students to use the PM e-Collection online for home reading. If you do not have an account for your child, please see your child's teacher. Daily reading

at home makes a positive difference in your child's education.

- **Holidays** – Have a safe and healthy break and we look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Tuesday 21st July for the beginning of Term 3.

Celebration of Learning

- Year 1 and 2 students have been working hard learning about 2D space.



Stage 2 Supervisor - Mrs R Ranse

Current Learning

- Last week Stage 2 students were lucky enough to experience the wonderful 'Musica Viva'. A thoroughly enjoyable and interactive experience, which was beamed directly into classrooms.
- Week 10 is a busy week. We are focused on catching up on unfinished tasks and making sure that we are all ready for a safe and relaxing holiday. The teachers have been busy preparing units of work for next term and have planned some exciting and engaging learning experiences for Term 3.

Reminders

- A reminder that all students need to bring drink bottles to school. Drink bottles need to be labelled with the owners name and class.

Celebration of Learning

- It has been wonderful to see how the Stage Two students have adapted to the many changes that have occurred throughout the term. Everything from the pickup and drop off arrangements to the eating arrangements has changed and the students have handled these changes with resilience. Congratulations!

Stage 3 Supervisor - Mrs K Day

As we near the end of the term, may we pause to reflect on all that has happened over the past 12 weeks, since Term 1. The catch phrase "we are all in this together" rings in our ears as we look back on all we have accomplished in such a small amount of time. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our dedicated and caring Stage 3 staff and families for your support and perseverance during this time.

Special Education – Mrs S Crook

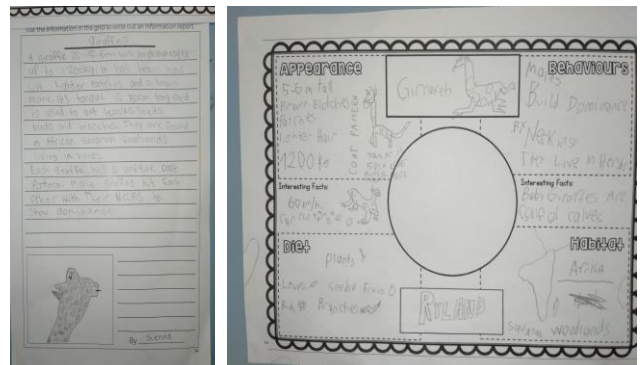
'Sharing our similarities, celebrating our differences'

Current Learning

- **K-6L** have been learning all about musical notes and their names in Italian. They have been learning to identify the notes and clap the rhythms that match.



- **K-6J** have been learning how to write information reports. The children have written reports on endangered animals. In history, the students have been talking about the differences in schools and education in the past and comparing it to school today.



Reminders

- **Drink Bottles** – As one of our additional hygiene measures at school, we have asked students not to drink directly from our bubblers. We still encourage our students to drink plenty of water during the day, so it is important that they bring a drink bottle each day that we can fill using the water fountains. Please ensure that it is clearly labelled with their name and class on it. We appreciate your support in this matter.

Celebration of Learning

- We have begun our grade gatherings this week with appropriate social distancing. It has been great to get together. The following students have demonstrated great learning this week; Elo C.L, Isaac F, Noah B, Isabelle C, Ryland M, Malaqui G and Johnny C.

Current Learning

- **Learning Focus** – Students are busy once again this week, completing Week 10 learning tasks and finishing off our work in all key learning areas. 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.
- **Police Youth Liaison Officer – Kerie Wells** – Has been visiting selected Stage 3 students this week addressing the issues of cyber safety and violence. We would sincerely like to thank Kerie for her time and expertise. We also look forward to follow-up lessons for students with her in Term 3.
- **Year 6 Transition to 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 question and answer video that all Year 6 students watched in class last week. This video will be uploaded to each individual Year 6 Google Classroom for your child to watch with you at home.
- **Gorokan High School Showcase Evening** – At this stage this event has been cancelled. Gorokan High School are busily developing a website to share with families that will replace this, and we will share the link with you as soon as it is ready.
- **Year 6 Fundraising - Rainbow Race Colour Explosion** – In Week 5 Term 3, Year 6 will be holding a massive all school event to raise funds for our end of year farewell and gift to the school. We are super excited to be holding a Rainbow Race Colour Explosion. Each student at Gorokan Public School will take part and they are asked to gather sponsors to assist in our fundraising experience. Sponsorship books will be sent home with details of how to raise money online. There are amazing prizes available for every student and it's going to be a wonderful fun and colourful experience. More information will be sent home next term.

Reminders

- **Drink Bottles** – Please ensure your child brings a drink bottle and their own writing instruments (pens, pencils etc) to school every day.

Celebration of Learning

- We look forward to sharing Education Week with you next term – more details to come! We hope you all have a happy and safe holiday break. We look forward to seeing everyone back at school in Term 3! Happy holidays everyone.

What content are children watching?

There's a rising trend of children watching adult content. Sex scenes, violence and inappropriate language, once shown on television during an adults-only time, are becoming staple viewing for many of today's children.

In a recent poll of 1,800 US parents, 40% admitted allowing their children to watch movies that are unsuitable for their age group. A recent discussion by this writer with parents suggests that the trends are similar in Australia. Very few of the parents I spoke with referred to the classification guidelines when choosing content for their children.

The increase in 'adult-only' animation is one factor that blurs the line of suitability for children. Adult-only genres such as Marvel movies and X Men franchise and television programs such as Game of Thrones and The Walking Dead thanks to streaming now count children among their devotees. Computer games, so popular with many children and young people, also cross the line of acceptability in terms of behaviour and attitudes on display.

Can we become desensitised over time?

Viewing standards, like standards of acceptable behaviour, have subtly shifted over time. Sex scenes, physical violence or violent language is now a common part of adult content, which has a desensitising effect on parents. Desensitisation leads to acceptance and a higher level of exposure to children.

Does fitting in play a part?

Advertisers know that children's pester power can play a significant role in the type of foods that go into the shopping trolley, which influences how food is packaged and promoted. Pester power plays a similar role in the choice of movies and television programs that we allow children to watch. "All the other kids have seen this movie?" is the type of comment from a child that hits a nerve for many parents, who rightfully want their child to fit in with their peers.

What are the risks?

There are many concerns about children being exposed to adult content in movies, television programs and the computer games. Here's a summary:

Developmental risks

Exposure to content that requires complex adult interpretation can be deeply confusing and disturbing to children. They often have difficulty discerning reality from what they are viewing on television so that they can develop a warped world view. The impact may not be immediate, but will show itself increasingly over time when children's attitudes towards sex, their peers or

authority reflect the on-screen content they've been viewing.

Impact on attitudes, and behaviour

Children are like sponges soaking up what they see and hear. Viewing parent-sanctioned programs that display disrespectful behaviour toward women, abuse of alcohol and drugs, and shows violence as normal have a powerful impact on the attitudes and behaviour of children. Viewed often enough, young minds can interpret these types of inappropriate behaviours as normal.

Impact on wellbeing

According to the Australian Council on Children and Media (ACCM) there is significant evidence that exposure by children to adult movies and programs leads to the development of exaggerated fears; causes loss of sleep and increases childhood anxiety. ACCM claims that "these fears are not insignificant and can be long lasting."

What can you do?

There are a number of actions you can take to ensure the content that children consume is appropriate for their age level, including:

Follow classification guidelines

Become familiar with the [Government classification guidelines](#) for movies, television programs and games. Understand what they mean and develop the habit of checking the classification rating of each new piece of content that children will be watching or interacting with.

Find out

It's easier than ever to find out for yourself the suitability of content for a child or young person. Research methods include vetting a television program yourself for suitability; searching online for views and opinions before allowing your child to watch a movie; reading reviews of online games to ascertain suitability.

Talk with other parents

It's easy to feel isolated as a parent, which makes you more susceptible to children's pester power. Just as children have a propensity to gang up on parents ("Everyone in my class is watching that movie"), parents can gain the strength that comes with numbers when they talk with each other ("I've just checked with some mums and no one is allowing their child to watch that movie").

Many current community concerns about children such as the increase in anxiety levels, disrespectful relationships and a propensity towards aggression is mirrored in the content many children consume in movies, television and games. It would be folly to suggest that inappropriate content consumption is the root cause of these maladies, however winding back the viewing habits of children to reflect more closely their developmental levels would have a surprisingly positive impact.