



# Newsletter

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February 24th 2016

## Principal's Message

I am often asked to give advice on:

1. How to assist anxious children
2. How to remove the fear of failure from both learning and friendship situations in children.
3. How to encourage and develop self-confidence in shy / reserved children.

Cracking the Confidence Code is an online course that may be of assistance to you.

This course assists parents who feel their child needs to feel better about themselves, overcome anxiety, fears and perfectionism. If you would like to look into it further please go to:

<http://goo.gl/3CweP9>

## CRACKING THE CONFIDENCE CODE

### Competency-building skills for parents to teach kids:

"You watch me"  
 "You help me"  
 "I'll help you"  
 "I'll watch you"

Michael Grose



parentingideasclub.com.au

## Cross Country

18th of March is our Cross Country championships. This is a great day that students enjoy. It is also a compulsory school day for all students at Gordon PS. Students will travel to and from school by bus. Parents are more than welcome to watch the race, but students must travel by bus as it is a school excursion. Please contact me with any questions regarding this event.

## Sports

One of the best ways to further develop your child's social and physical skills is by joining a local sporting club. It is also great for your child's health and wellbeing. If your children are too young, there are still programs like Auskick, Aussie Hoops and NetSetGo. Please feel free to ask your child's teacher for further information on how to get involved.

## Traffic

It is disappointing that we still have a few cars that continue to drive dangerously around the school. Safety is a high priority and all drivers need to be on high alert and at a low speed during pick up and drop off times. Highway patrol will be monitoring traffic at these times.

## Computers

With the new Victorian Curriculum coming into play in 2017, we need to look at an effective strategy across the whole school to assist us with new ICT requirements, such as, "coding". This will not impact our Literacy and Numeracy teaching in any way. School Council will look at this issue in semester one and will ask for community input to assist with the process. Your input will be much appreciated.

## Immunisations

With the recent events in Melbourne, it is a timely reminder to discuss immunisations. While I understand both sides of the current debate, I do want to point out that it is mentioned in the Department of Education and Training Immunisation Policy that: "Prior to commencing primary school, children should have received their childhood vaccinations as per the National Immunisation Program Schedule".

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/immunisation.aspx>

## Swimming

Congratulations to Darcy and Fergus for their fantastic achievements at the Midlands Primary School Swimming competition on Sunday. Both boys represented the school extremely well in both 50m Backstroke and Freestyle. As I write this report I look forward to watching Grace and Lachlan (grade 2's) compete in the 25m events tonight. To see students step outside of their comfort zones and give something new a try is very pleasing.

## Curriculum Days

Please note that the following dates are student free days:

11th March, 14th June, 31st October

## Happy Birthday

We would like to wish Aiden Mutimer a very Happy Birthday and also to any members of our community who are also celebrating their special day.

## Have a great weekend,

**Russel Cowan**  
 Principal

## Gordon Primary School - School Newsletter Report

### Parents and Community Committee (P&C)

Thursday 25 February 2016

Welcome Parents, Grandparents, Carers and Friends of Gordon Primary School!

Hope you're having a great start to the year and meeting members of the P&C throughout the school - several of our helpers helping with the welcome BBQ the other week.

Please find attached our Calendar of Events so that you can start to schedule them into your plans for 2016. We have a lot of fun activities coming up and hope you'll come along and be a part of our fantastic efforts as the year progresses.

I welcome you to attend our P&C meetings at 7:45pm on the first Wednesday of each month (except school holidays when it is the first Wednesday after the holidays). Or, if you can't make evenings, come along to our 'Cuppa n Chat' sessions that happen on a Thursday; straight after school drop off. An informal reflection of the meeting evening but with some very valid points developing. It is a wonderful chance for you to have a catch up and also meet new friends at school. Mr Cowan joined us last time to answer a few questions and we had several new faces and plenty of goodies to share ;-)

#### Upcoming events and dates:

#### February

**Wednesdays** – Helpers in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program are welcome to attend. Please advise Mellissa Kirk if you would like to assist. Any day - You can help water the vegetable garden any day you feel like it. Please let Nicki Stewart know what day you'd like to do this. Please note that a Working With Children Volunteer Cards are required for all helpers in both the kitchen and the garden.

#### March

**Friday 3 March** – National Ride to School Day – Breakfast at School. The P&C will provide a wholesome and healthy breakfast that morning. Parents are welcome to attend to assist on the route too. Extra laps can be done on the oval once kids arrive at school (dependant on weather!)

Before School Program Parents/ Carers - Please note: Parents/Carers of children attending the before school program on that day need to confirm if they will be attending the Ride or not. Please advise Heather ASAP.

**Saturday 4 March** – Working Bee – Starting at 10am, bring along your hoes, forks, secateurs, gardening gloves and anything else you think might be handy to: hoe under our 'school logo' tree, prune roses out front, lop a few stray branches, cut back the herb garden, etc.

**Saturday 19 March** – Gordon Hall Market Day – GPS will be running the café so will require people to roster themselves on from 9 to 2. And any bakers out there; we would love to share your offerings! And the BBQ will run from 11 to 1 – helpers also required on the roster.

Please if you have any queries don't hesitate to contact Nicole Smith on 5368 9199 or 0425 747 477 or [ni-colesmith72@hotmail.com](mailto:nicole-smith72@hotmail.com). Or speak to someone on the Committee (list to follow next report).

**Have a fabulous year!**

**Nicole Smith**

#### Lopees

Lopees will be sent home with new students this week. They are fabric envelopes and we encourage all students to use them if they are sending cash into the office. Receipts will be returned to parents via the Lopees.

**Thankyou,  
Shana Brooks  
Business Manager**



### Captain's Corner

Hi there, I hope you liked last week's Captains Corner; it was my first time doing it but I feel it went well.

I hope the parents are now more aware of what is happening in the classrooms. This week I talked with the grade 4/5 class about what they have been learning.

Lately, the grade 4/5 have been working hard on number patterns in maths, being able to identify

the numbers that come before, after and in between a sequence of numbers.

They have also been reading a lot about dreamtime and the aboriginal culture. As well as that, in History the topic has been convicts, how, when and why they came to Australia. In science, renewable energy has been the focus.

Next week I will go and see what the grade 3's have been up to.

**See you next week!**

**Tilly**

# February 2016

**Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat      Sun**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Prep Day Off	25	26 Clean Up Australia Day	27	28
29 Assembly						

# March 2016

**Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat      Sun**

	1 Western Bulldogs Visit	2 Aboriginal Co-op Incursion Young Leaders Day	3	4 National Ride to School Day	5	6
7 Aboriginal For A Day Incursion	8	9	10 Grade 5 Sovereign Hill	11 Curriculum Day	12	13
14 Labour Day	15	16	17	18 Cross Country	19	20 Autumn Festival
21	22 Parent Teacher Interviews	23	24 Assembly Last Day Term 1	25 Good Friday	26 Easter Saturday	27 Easter Sunday
28 Easter Monday	29	30	31			

*All dates were correct at the time of going to print however they may be subject to change.*



# MIDLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL SWIMMING COMPETITION



***Catch the reading  
bug with Free Movies!!!***



**Movies in the Marsh!**

**Friday 26 February**

**Lerderberg Library**

**10.30am**



A young woman, born at the turn of the 20th century, is rendered ageless after an accident. After many solitary years, she meets a man who complicates the eternal life she has settled into.

All are invited to this free event with first- come, first- seated as there is limited seating. This film is rated M

**For more information please contact Natalie at the Lerderberg  
Library on 5366 7100**