



19th February, 2021

Code of Conduct.

I take this opportunity to remind parents that the code of conduct is available for all to view on our website. This clearly outlines acceptable behaviour within our community and our processes on how to deal with grievances.

Having been in this field for just shy of 25 years, I can safely say that the majority of issues in a community comes from a breakdown in communication. Our Code of Conduct is written to assist our community keep lines of communication open at all times.

As a principal, teacher and a parent with children in years 12 and 9, I would like to offer the following advice for when your child comes home with a version of events.

1. Realise the 50 / 50 rule – you now have 50% of the story and if you are concerned, you need to get the other 50% from the school.
2. I listen to my children and sometimes write down what they say. I have always told my children that teachers, principals and myself (as the parent) work together to make school a great place for them.
3. If you require a meeting with the teacher, make an appointment, perhaps saying "I have an issue that I am struggling to make sense of. Can we meet to discuss?" after this you explain what you have been told and are looking for assistance. This de-escalates the situation.
4. Realise that children are children and we love them, but they also can say things that may not be entirely true.
5. If you have spoken to the teacher and you feel that the matter is still unresolved, the code of conduct clearly identifies the next step.
6. Be diplomatic at all times.

COVID-19 Update

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience and support as we found ourselves in lock down again. I have noticed that many students did not handle the last lockdown as well as previously This is to be expected and I ask that any parent who is concerned to contact me. I advise all parents to:

1. Have open, honest and age relevant discussions with their children about COVID – 19
2. Ask your child to tell you anything they have heard about COVID-19. Don't dismiss their fears, but reassure them that professionals all around the world are working to keep us safe.
3. Remind them of hand hygiene, social distancing and all other safety measures that you have in place
4. Let them know that you care so that they are comfortable in talking to you about anything.
5. Look out for anger, confusion, sadness, fear, anxiety, denial

Where can parents go for assistance?

To support your mental health and wellbeing: Headspace – [headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation](#)

Beyondblue – COVID19 [Supporting you through the Coronavirus pandemic - Beyond Blue](#)

Lifeline – [COVID-19 \(lifeline.org.au\)](#)

For parenting needs:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): family guide | Raising Children Network](#)

<https://emergingminds.com.au/resources/toolkits/parents-carers-and-families-toolkit/covid-19/>

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/coronavirus-how-talk-child.html?WT.ac=p-ra>

For children: <https://au.reachout.com/collections/coping-during-coronavirus>

The **good news** is that we are back at school, however we do have some minor restrictions that impact families. I will continue to notify families through Compass when changes occur.

BUILDING WORKS AT GORDON P.S.

We have numerous projects underway at the moment

- Stage one of our playground (Ninja course) has now been completed. Last years JSC have done an amazing job and planning for stages 2 and 3 will commence shortly.
- The old toilets will be refurbished. This is currently in the procurement stage with more information to come.
- The kids shed extension has now been completed. Classes will recommence there in the near future.
- Our new fence will be installed this year. Currently we are at the surveying stage, moving to planning and construction after this.

School Council election process and timetable 2021

Event	Date
Notice of election and call for nominations	Wednesday 4th February 2021
Closing date for nominations	Friday 12th February 2021
Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted	Monday 15th February 2021
Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed	On or before Wednesday 17 th February 2021
Close of ballot	Friday 26 th February 2021
Vote count	Monday 1 st March .2021
Declaration of poll	Monday 1 st March 2021
First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)	Wednesday 10th March 2021

School Council Nominations and Elections

Please return the election ballot forms sent home last week. Thankyou to those parents who volunteered their time for school council.

Russel Cowan

(Principal)

BIRTHDAYS

I would like to acknowledge students who celebrated their birthdays last week. We will place your birthday bookmarks your teacher’s pigeon hole.

Happy birthday to:

Ashton Hatcher, Rocky Ray, Logan Collins,
Dayne Swan, Angus Dowling, Abigail Parkin,



MORNING ARRIVAL

Parents are reminded that students should not arrive at school before 8.45 a.m each day.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Monday 8th March	Labour Day Holiday (no school for students)
Tuesday 23rd March	Parent Teacher Interviews
Thursday 1st April	Last day of Term 1
Monday 19th April	First day of Term 2
Friday 11th June	Student Free Day
Monday 1st November	Student Free Day



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

GORDON PRIMARY SCHOOL—STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to our Students of the Week -

P/1H Rocky, Tyson,

2 Jett, Levi,

4/5W Sophie, Hamish,

6 Dakota, Kael

P/1C Kiera, Archer,

3 McKenzie, Charlotte,

4/5M Mickey, Tilly,

Stem / PE Elsie, Pia

Pen licence Sarah, Lily



School procedures for the bushfire season Update for Gordon Primary School



Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life. Schools and children's services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and those at risk of grassfire (Category 4) **will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined** in their Bureau of Meteorology district.

Our school has recently been identified as being one of those at high grassfire risk.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days' notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter, Compass and Facebook. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1:00 pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.

Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.

School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.

All bus routes that travel through the Code Red area will be cancelled.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – **on such days children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day. As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan.

Please go to next page for further information for parents-

What can parents do?

Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up to date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.

Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.

Most importantly at this time of year, if you're planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.

If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can access more information about children's services closures on the Department of Education and Training website – see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

Multiple sources that offer information on emergencies are listed below:

VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices

VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)

Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>

Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)

Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)

ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

