GORDON PRIMARY SCHOOL
"OUR FUTURE STARTS HERE"

Newsletter

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22nd July, 2022

Welcome back to Term 3

I am so proud of our students and staff for the amazing school camp at the start of term three. We have beautifully behaved students that are a pleasure to take away. Having worked at numerous schools, I can confidently say that we are very spoilt at Gordon PS and this is a credit to the wonderful culture that we (parents, staff and students) have created.

Great school camps take planning and effort and I must thank the school staff who attended. Giving up their time away from families and daily routines is a significant commitment. These efforts result in an experience that students will remember long into the future. What do camps offer students??

- **They experience new environments and ideas, helping with personal development.**
- **Development of independence skills** - school camps can often be the first time a child is away from family and home for a few nights. They learn independence skills like how to look after themselves and do things on their own. Most children rise to the challenge.
- **Developing strong and positive relationships with their teacher/s will assist in students learning -** School camps assist these relationships, giving teachers and students an opportunity to get to know each other outside of the classroom.
- **Development of student's social skills** - School camp activities tend to involve team work, which helps to strengthen established friendships and create new friendships by working with students they don't regularly socialise with at school.
- **Development of decision-making skills** - Children are able to make more of their own decisions and choices.
- **Increased environmental awareness** - at school camps, students are exposed to real nature-based experiences.

Respect Resilience Responsibility Respect Resilience Responsibility Respect Resilience Responsibility Respect Resilience Responsibility

SCHOOL VALUES – I was so please to observe so many values badges handed out on Monday. Students are recognised for demonstration of values outside of the expected behaviours. Once 5 recognitions have been made, a badge is awarded in one of the following areas: Respect, Resilience and Responsibility. These badges will continue to be awarded each year.

As we continue to feel the impacts of COVID across our community, it is a good opportunity to practice the skills of building resilience. The research is clear; the more positive emotions you experience, the more resilient you will be.

STUDENT FREE DAY – Friday 9th September. Please refer to my Compass notification regarding this extra day.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS – I am hoping to start seeing many more parents assisting the school from week to week. COVID has definitely impacted in this area. To come on site and assist, please complete a working with children's check as per my previous communication. We have a tree planting day next week along with breakfast club opportunities. Teachers are always keen to have parents assist with reading in the junior school, please speak to your child's teachers to see how you could assist. Students love to show off their parents in class and one of the highlights is a parent presentation on their job, holiday, cultural experience, funny experience etc. Once again, please speak to your child's teacher regarding opportunities here.

ATTENDANCE - Daily school attendance is important for young people to succeed in education and to ensure they don't fall behind, both socially and developmentally. Young people who regularly attend school and complete Year 12 or an equivalent qualification have better health outcomes, better employment outcomes, and higher incomes across their lives. School participation is important as it maximises life opportunities for young people, by providing them with education and support networks. School helps people to develop important skills, knowledge and values which set them up for further learning and participation in their community. Gordon Primary School places great importance in all students being at school on time every day the school is open for instruction. Below are some key facts about missed days and their impact on your child's education.

We understand that sometimes getting your child to school may be difficult and the school is very happy to work with parents to improve their child's attendance. If you would like to discuss this with us further, please contact the school to arrange a time to meet with your child's teacher and a member of the leadership team.

BUILDINGS UPDATE:

- Finally, our external build on the OHSC extension is complete. We have now moved to the next phase of the build, with a hopeful completion early term 4.
- Our Solar power system will be installed by terms end. We will have enough power generated to cancel out our usage, reducing our bills and doing our bit to cut our emissions.
- Additional Shade Sail will be installed on the north east side of the school. This is the one promised to us under last years outdoor education space scheme.

Gardens are looking great and I thank mark and Clint for their efforts here.

TRANSITION PREP 2023 - Over this term we are conducting regular prep enrolment tours. If you know of anyone in our community considering enrolling for 2023, encourage them to make an appointment to come in for a tour or collect an enrolment pack from the office. Parents can also access the online tour from our school website.

COVID UPDATE - Just a reminder to all parents that the isolation protocols still apply. If your child tests positive, they must isolate for 7 days, and we need you to ring the office to notify us for our reporting purposes. It is important that you ring us or email the school so we can collect the information needed for our attendance data

VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS - There are no longer any mandatory vaccination requirements for staff or visitors working or attending mainstream schools. This came into effect from 11:59pm on Friday 24 June 2022.

RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS - The Victorian Government is providing up to 3 further deliveries of rapid antigen tests (RATs) to schools in Terms 3 and 4, 2022. These will be distributed to staff and students who require them and who are symptomatic or household contacts. our first delivery of Term 3 RATs was sent home this week.

FACE MASKS - It is strongly recommended that face masks are worn in indoor settings (except for close contacts, who must wear a mask indoors unless an exemption applies).

EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR FOURTH COVID-19 VACCINE DOSE - The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has updated its recommendations around fourth doses of COVID-19 vaccination. From Monday 11 July 2022, people aged over 30 will be eligible for a fourth dose. ATAGI recommends that people aged 50 to 64 should have their fourth dose, while those aged 30 to 49 can choose to have a fourth dose. For further information, refer to the ATAGI website. Vaccinations for students remains the best way to protect our students and staff in school settings. I encourage families of children aged 5 to 11 to get vaccinated, and staff and students aged over 16 to get their third dose, remains critical.

CYBER SAFETY - Parents and carers play a major role in helping children develop digital intelligence—the social, emotional and practical skills needed to navigate the online world in a safe and fun way. We will be featuring items relating to online safety in the coming editions of the newsletter. The first one appears today.

Russel Cowan

(Principal)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

25th July	Rookeepers Incursion
27th July	Concert Rehearsal
29th July	Tree Planting Day
2nd August	School Concert—WCPA
3rd August	Bakers Delight
9th August	Sovereign Divison Basketball
16th August	Arlo's 1st Birthday– Lake Wendouree
29th August	YONG performance Grade 5 & 6
31st August	Scienceworks Grade 3 & 4
2nd September	Father's Day Stall
7th September	Bakers Delight
9th September	Professional Practice Day (pupil free day)
31st October	Curriculum Day—No Students at school
30th November	Marine Discovery Centre Grade 3 & 4
13th December	Transition Day Year 6 to Year 7 also Prep and other grades (note date change)

BIRTHDAYS

We would like to acknowledge students who will be celebrating their birthdays this month. We will place your birthday bookmarks in your teacher's pigeon hole.

Happy birthday to: **Lilly Sharpe, Odessa Davis, Riley-Harber Duncan, Harvey Kalms, Lucy Sowman, Hudson Ffrost, Darcy Summerfield, Winnie Kucz and Perry Murphy**

CENTREPAY

Gordon Primary School has been approved by the Australian Government to accept payments from parents via their Centrelink accounts .
If you receive a regular payment from the government e.g. pension, sole parent etc. you might like to consider setting up a fortnightly deduction to go towards your child/rens school costs – booklist, excursions and camps.
There is no charge to you for using Centrepay.

How Deductions are set up—

A Customer can set up a Deduction in a number of ways:
Via their Centrelink online account via MyGov
Using the Express Plus Centrelink mobile app
By contacting the Agency .

The minimum Deduction amount for Centrepay is $10.

Please quote: 555134861B
Business Name: GORDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Please 'Go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/centrepay for more information'

In the past families have used CENTREPAY to pay for Camps, Excursions etc.

'OUT OF THIS WORLD'— Concert 2022

Tuesday 2nd August

The start of Term 3 is going to be a busy and exciting time with the lead up to the school concert. The concert will be held at the Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts (WCPA) on Tuesday 2nd August. The performances are looking great and the students are very excited for their families to watch them on the big stage!
Teachers have put together costume requirements for each group. If you have any questions about them, please ask your classroom teacher.

Prep/ Grade 1- Anything space related such as aliens, astronauts and planets, or anything purple.

Grade 2 & 3- Silver or black tops and pants, and headbands with antennas or eyes on them.

Grade 4/5/6- Black pants and t-shirt, basketball jerseys, suit jackets (can be worn over the top of their jerseys), stars, astronauts or aliens.

We will be having a whole school full dress rehearsal at the WCPA on Wednesday 27th July so costumes need to come to school in a named bag before this date.
Thank you for your support with organising costumes, I cannot wait to see the students dressed up and for us to travel 'Out of this World!'

Tickets are available from the school office - Adults $10, School aged Children $5 (not our students who are the stars of the show!) Pre school aged children are free. You can purchase and pay in person or over the phone.

If you have not yet sent back your child/rens permission form for the rehearsal next Wednesday please do so as soon as you can.

VALUES AWARD BADGES Congratulations to the most recent recipients of our values awards:

LUCY S — PREP

ELLA, RICHELLE, AIDEN AND RILEY—GRADE 2

JAKE, WINNIE AND ELSIE — GRADE 1

GRADE 5 RECIPIENTS

GRADE 3 RECIPIENTS

GRADE 6 RECIPIENTS

PREP RECIPIENTS

HIGH ABILITIES PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

ARLO IS VERY PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS TOO!

GRADE 1 NAIDOC WEEK CELEBRATIONS

DAYNE AND CHARLIE

ANGUS AND FLYNN

ZARIAH AND KADE

COEN AND WILLIAM

ROCKY

ALANAH AND THALIA

WINNIE AND LILY

XANDER

KIERA AND EVIE

MARGOT AND ELSIE

ZANDER, MADDIE, THALIA AND MARGOT

KADE AND DAYNE

WINNIE, LILY, ANGUS AND ZANDER

EVIE

KEIRA

WINNIE

GRADE 1 NAIDOC WEEK CELEBRATIONS

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CAMP WILKIN—GRADE 4

CAMP WILKIN—GRADE 4

HUDSON, LIAM, JAX AND WYATT

EVIE DOING A GREAT JOB ON THE LEAP OF FAITH!

Respect Resilience Responsibility Respect Resilience Responsibility

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CAMP WILKIN—GRADE 4 WITH MISS HAIRE

CAMP WILKIN—GRADE 4

CAMP WILKINE—GRADE 3 with Charlotte

CAMP WILKIN—GRADE 3

EDIE, BENNY, JETT AND SOPHIE

SKYE AND ABIGAIL

eSmart
alannah & madeline foundation

TIPS FOR PARENTS OF YOUNGER PRIMARY STUDENTS

Three steps to help your children navigate their digital world.

Make sure children use devices where their parents can see them.

- Devices should be used and charged in open, busy places like the living room. This helps you supervise and talk with your children about what they are doing online.
- Keep devices out of bedrooms and other places where children are alone.

Learn to use parental controls.

You can use parental controls on devices, wi-fi networks and streaming networks to help limit the time your children spend online and reduce the risk of them seeing or doing something inappropriate. For details, see the eSafety Commissioner.

Understand your children's games and apps.

- Check their age ratings.
- Read parent reviews.
- Choose the highest privacy settings.
- Turn off in-app purchases.
- Find out how to report a concern.
- Make sure your children do not chat with strangers.
- Play age-appropriate games as a family and talk about why they are fun and what to do if something goes wrong.

For more info, see the eSafety Guide, the Australian Council on Children and the Media, and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

Concerned about a child's wellbeing?

Speak to your school wellbeing team, your GP, or Parentline in your state or territory. In an emergency, always call triple zero.

esmart.org.au

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eSmart
alannah & madeline foundation

TIPS FOR PARENTS OF OLDER PRIMARY STUDENTS

Three steps to help your children navigate their digital world.

Understand tech gifts before you give them to your children.

Before buying toys or devices that connect to the internet, find out which ones are recommended for your children's age and how to choose strong privacy settings.

See the eSafety Gift Guide.

Learn about the games and apps your children enjoy.

- Check their age ratings.
- Read parent reviews.
- Choose the highest privacy settings.
- Turn off in-app purchases.
- Find out how to report a concern.
- Make sure your children do not chat with strangers.
- Play age-appropriate games as a family. Talk about why they are fun and what to do if something upsets you while playing.

For more info, see the eSafety Guide, the Australian Council on Children and the Media, and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

Teach your children to think of others before taking photos or videos.

Remind children to ask if it's OK before taking a picture or a video of someone else. If the person says no, we must respect their wishes. And we must ask ourselves 'How might this picture make the other person feel?'

Concerned about a child's wellbeing?

Speak to your school wellbeing team, your GP, or Parentline in your state or territory. In an emergency, always call triple zero.

esmart.org.au