



Newsletter

13th February, 2023

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to all students, parents and staff, especially those new students and parents who have joined the Gordon Primary School community for the first time this year. It was wonderful to see and hear the school filled with the sounds of happy children. The teachers have been working very hard over the past weeks to ensure a very organised and smooth start to the year; I think they have done a wonderful job.

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

I am pleased to inform the community that we have commenced **The Resilience Project** in 2023. The mental health statistics in this country are concerning. Implementing this program aims to teach positive mental health strategies to assist our students and wider community to become happier and more resilient. The research is clear; the more positive emotion you experience, the more resilient you will be. For that reason The Resilience Project is built on three key pillars proven to cultivate positive emotion;

Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness (GEM). Please keep an eye out for announcements from your class teacher or Mrs Castles, this is a very exciting opportunity for the school.

SCHOOL COUNCIL - I would sincerely like to thank all members of our school council for their work over 2022. We have 2 parent vacancies for School Council for 2023. I would particularly like to thank Jason Bonar for his leadership as School Council President. Please note that nominations for School Council parent representatives opens on Thursday 16th February, and close at 4:00pm Wednesday 22nd February 2023. Nomination forms can be collected from the office. School Councillors attend eight School Council meetings per year, held on the second Wednesday of each month during term time from March of the current year to February of the following year. There is training available for new School Councillors.

NEW PREPS FOR 2023 - All our students including the new prep students started school on the first day. There were many excited, anxious and eager children and parents. The children settled very well into their classes and had a wonderful first day at school. I would like to thank all the parents for preparing their children for the school year. There is considerable work, time and money involved in preparing your child for school –lunches, uniform, school shoes, books, fees etc. Having children well prepared supports their learning and ensures a smooth start. It has been wonderful to see how quickly they have settled into the routines of school.

ATHLETICS DAY— All students will participate in the Athletic Day to be held at Llanberris Reserve on 21st February. The first bus trip for the Preps is always an exciting time.

SWIMMING PROGRAM - Our student will be participating in their intensive swimming program at the Federation University Pool. Please ensure you read all information so that your child is prepared for the day.

VALUES IN 2023 - Our school community will again embrace our values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience. The teachers will be nominating students for our values badge when they see a student demonstrating the school values. Students who receive five nominations for one value will receive a badge. Students who have all three badges will be working towards additional badges each year (RRR 2023).



TEACHER TEAMS - All teachers are working together in teams to ensure we meet the learning needs of your children. The teams are Prep, One and two, Years 3-4, and Years 5-6. Together our teams will ensure we are using up to date data to guide student learning experiences as well as ensuring a nurturing and challenging learning environment. Teachers are happy to answer any queries or discuss how your child is progressing. At the end of Term 1 we offer you the opportunity to meet with the teacher and your child to discuss their learning goals and progress. I would like to invite you to make time to meet with me should you have any concerns at all regarding your child. An appointment is best and this can be made by telephoning the office.

WELCOME FAMILY PICNIC

We are excited to invite our school families to bring their own chairs, blankets and picnic to our family welcome night to be held this term. (Always view the school events calendar to stay on top of the dates). This is a wonderful opportunity for our new parents to meet our current families, teachers and our School Council representatives. School Captains will have their badges on and be available for questions. Teachers wearing their badges will be there to help anyone. We can't wait to see you there. No alcohol is permitted at this event and smoking is not permitted on site.

GOOGLE APPS AND OFFICE 365

At Gordon Primary School we provide learning experiences in line with the Digital Technologies Domain of the Victorian Curriculum. The teachers and students utilise Google Apps including Google Classroom and Office 365 to deliver the curriculum within the teaching and learning program. One of the necessary steps we need to take is to offer parents an "opt-out" option. This enables us to be in line with Department of Education Policy. Please be assured that we have taken the necessary steps in completing the Privacy Impact Assessments within our Department. The Google Classroom and Office 365 – information sheets including opt-out forms, are available at the office. Please complete a form and return it to the office if you do NOT wish your child to use these platforms.

Russel Cowan

Privacy Collection Notice

Information for students, parents and carers

The Department of Education (the department) values your privacy and is committed to protecting the personal and health information that schools collect.

All school staff must comply with Victorian privacy law and the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#). This notice explains how the department, including Victorian government schools (schools), handles personal and health information. On occasion, specific consent will be sought for the collection and use of information, for example, for a student to receive a health service. Our schools are also required by legislation, such as the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*, to collect some of this information.

Throughout this notice, 'staff' includes principals, teachers, student support service officers, youth workers, social workers, nurses and any other allied health practitioners, and all other employees, contractors, volunteers and service providers of the school and the department.

On enrolment, and during the ordinary course of a student's attendance at a school, schools will collect information about students and their families for the following purposes:

- educating students
- supporting students' social and emotional wellbeing, and health
- fulfilling legal obligations, including duty of care, anti-discrimination law and occupational health and safety law
- communicating and engaging with parents
- student administration
- school management
- supporting policy in relation to student education and wellbeing.

If this information is not collected, schools may be unable to provide optimal education or support to students or fulfil legal obligations.

For example, our schools rely on parents to provide **health information** about any medical condition or disability that their child has, medication their child may take while at school, any known allergies and contact details of their child's doctor. If parents do not provide all relevant health information, this may put their child's health at risk.

Our schools also require current, relevant information about all **parents and carers** so that schools can take account of safety concerns that affect their children. Parents should provide schools with copies of all current parenting plans and court orders about or that affect their children and provide updated copies when they change.

When parents enrol their child in primary school, they will be asked to provide personal and health information in several ways, including via the Enrolment Form, the [School Entrance Health Questionnaire](#) (SEHQ) and the [Early Childhood Intervention Service](#) (ECIS) Transition Form.

Continued

The **Enrolment Form** is used to collect information that is essential for the purposes listed above, and requests information such as:

Emergency contacts – Individuals parents nominate for a school to contact during an emergency. Parents should ensure that their nominated emergency contact agrees to their contact details being provided to the school and that they understand their details may be disclosed by the department if lawful, e.g. in the case of emergency communications relating to bush fires or floods.

Student background information – Information about country of birth, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, language spoken at home and parent occupation. This information enables the department to allocate appropriate resources to schools. The department also uses this information to plan for future educational needs in Victoria and shares some information with the Commonwealth government to monitor, plan and allocate resources.

Immunisation status – This assists schools to manage health risks and legal obligations. The department may also provide this information to the Department of Health and Department of Families, Fairness and Housing to assess immunisation rates in Victoria, but not in a way which identifies students.

Visa status – This is required to process a student's enrolment.

All schools may use departmental systems and online tools such as apps and other software to effectively collect and manage information about students and families for the purposes listed above.

When schools use these online tools, they take steps to ensure that student information is secure. If parents or carers have any concerns about the use of these online tools, please contact the school.

School staff will only share student and family information with other school staff who need to know to enable them to educate or support the student as described above. Information will only be shared outside the school (and outside the department) as required or authorised by law, including where sharing is required to meet duty of care, anti-discrimination, occupational health and safety, and child wellbeing and safety obligations. The information collected will not be disclosed beyond the school and department without parent consent unless such disclosure is lawful.

When a student transfers to another school (including Catholic, independent and interstate), personal and/or health information about that student may be transferred to the next school. Transferring this information is in the best interests of the student and assists the next school to provide the best possible education and support to the student. For further detail about how and what level of information is provided to the next school, refer to the:

[Enrolment: Student transfers between schools](#)

Schools only provide school reports and ordinary school communications to students, parents, carers or others who have a legal right to that information. Requests for access to other student information or by others must be made by lodging a [Freedom of Information](#) (FOI) application. To update student or family information, parents should contact their school.

For more information about how schools and the department collect and manage personal and health information, or how to access personal and health information held by a school about you or your child, refer to the: [Schools' Privacy Policy](#)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Respect Resilience Responsibility

February 21st	Athletics—Llanberris Reserve
February 27th—March 3rd	Swimming—Federation University
March 1st—4.30—6.00	Family Picnic at school
March 10th	Pupil Free Day
13th March	LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY
March 24th	Ride to School Day
21st March	Harmony Day
3rd April	Dental Van Visit
Advance on dates in 2023 that will be pupil free days.	
Friday 10th March	
Friday 9th June	
Monday 24th July	
Monday 6th November	

BIRTHDAYS

We would like to acknowledge students who have or will be celebrating their birthdays during January and February. We will place your birthday bookmark in your teachers' pigeon hole.

Happy birthday to: Milla Brown 1/2F, Fredrik Bonavia Prep, Seth Camton Grade 4, Renata Hasaj 1/2H, Cruize Benger-McCallum Grade 5, Sienna Plavsic Grade 6, Vivian Barnes Prep, Zane Camilleri 1/2H, Zaixton Benger-McCallum Grade 3, Lucy Meddick 1/2F, Rocky Ray 1/2F, Dayne Swan 1/2H, Angus Dowling 1/2F, Abigail Parkin Grade 4, Tilman Minkevicius Grade 4, Kade Camilleri 1/2F, Jack Riddell Grade 4 and Abigail Summerfield Prep.



GRADE 4 ENJOYING THEIR ART LESSON



EDIE AND ABIGAIL



HUGH



TYLER

FAMILY PICNIC

We invite you to attend our Welcome Family Picnic to be held on Wednesday 1st March from 4.30 - 6.00.

This will be a BYO everything event (chairs, picnic rugs, picnic etc.)

Teachers will be onsite during the evening - a great opportunity for you to get to know them. We look forward to seeing you on the night.

There will also be a raffle (tickets will be sent home) prizes are a \$500 visa card kindly donated by the Swan family , \$50 voucher to St. Anne's Winery kindly donated by the Brown family and a \$30 Campion Books voucher donated by School Council.

Calling all Bakers! BAF is bringing back their Cake Decorating Competition!!

All ages and all-inclusive! The Ballan and Districts CWA is teaming up with Sweet and Sassy to re-launch this wonderful community tradition with some great prizes!

Check out entry deets, rules and prizes via the enquiry form today!

Form: <https://forms.office.com/r/fG6waJhEG2>





write4fun.net

FUN & FREE!

WRITING COMPETITION

Win \$1000

Kids poetry & short story

and your choice of \$500 giftcard:



Entries close
Sunday 26th March 2023

ALL GRADES!
K - 12



FUN & FREE!

KIDS POETRY & SHORT STORY WRITING COMPETITION

Write your imagination!

Win \$1000

ALL GRADES!

And your choice of :

- \$500 Apple Gift Card,
- \$500 JB Hi-Fi Gift Card,
- \$500 Rebel Sport Gift Card,
- \$500 Toyworld Gift Card



ENTRIES CLOSE SUNDAY 26th MARCH 2023!

Full details at **write4fun.net**

The quickest and easiest way to enter is online at www.write4fun.net.