

GORDON



PRIMARY SCHOOL

"OUR FUTURE STARTS HERE"

Newsletter

29th November, 2024

Principal: Russel Cowan

1 Dicker Street

Gordon, Victoria, 3345

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Building Resilience Together: A Partnership Between Home and School

Resilience is an essential skill for our children, helping them navigate challenges and grow from setbacks. At school, we encourage a growth mindset, teaching students that mistakes are opportunities to learn. We invite parents to partner with us in reinforcing this at home by praising effort and persistence, not just outcomes. By modeling resilience in everyday situations and offering a supportive environment for children to express their feelings and problem-solve, we can together empower our students to approach life's challenges with confidence and determination.

Let's continue to work hand-in-hand to build their resilience.

BUSHFIRE SEASON PREPARATIONS

Each year, we take a number of steps to ensure the safety of our school community as we prepare for the bushfire and grassfire season. An important part of this process is keeping parents informed about the procedures we'll follow in the event of certain fire danger ratings, to help keep our students and staff safe.

Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfires and grassfires and is classified as a Category 4 school. In the event of a **Catastrophic** fire danger rating in the Central fire district, our school will close. Further details on this process can be found on the Victorian Bushfire Information Line (24 hours) [1800 240 667](tel:1800240667). **Further information on page 7 and 8 of this newsletter.**

TRANSITION FOR 2025 PREP STUDENTS

Our Prep students for 2025 have completed their first two transition days, which were a great opportunity to get familiar with the school environment. We have a beautiful group of 14 students, all with a very excited grade 6 buddy!

2025 Parent Payments and Booklists

The 2025 booklist packs have been sent home. If you have not received one, please contact the office. Each pack includes a letter from the School Council President about parent payments, an information pack, and a booklist slips for each of your children attending in 2025. The booklist orders close with Campion on Sunday 8th December.

The continued support of our families helps ensure that we can provide the best possible education for our students.

2025 PLANNING AND STAFFING UPDATE

I am currently finalising staffing for 2025, and the class structures are in the process of being confirmed by our teachers. While there may still be some changes, the current classroom assignments are as follows:

- Ms. Tuanie (Prep/One)
- Ms. Castles (Prep/One)
- Mr. Nelson (Grade 2)
- Ms. Frew (Three/Four)
- Ms. Gatacre (Three/Four)
- Mrs. Ackland (Five/Six)
- Mrs. Middleton and Ms. Hawke (Five/Six)

I will share the finalised list of teachers for 2025 very soon. It is important that we are aware of any changes to enrolments. If know of someone in our community who is considering enrolling for 2025, please encourage them to contact us or schedule an appointment to come in for a tour and collect an enrolment pack from the office.

IMPORTANT TERM 4 DATES FOR FAMILIES

PLEASE CHECK OUR CALENDAR ON PAGE 5

- **2nd December:** Grade Six Fun Day – Adventure Park
- **9th December:** Grade Six Graduation – Ballarat Golf Club
- **16th December:** Whole school Presentation night and Picnic.
- **20th December:** Last day of school for 2024 – early finish.












Transition Dates for 2025:

- 10th December **Whole School Transition Day**
 - Year 1–6: 9:00am – 3;15pm
 - Prep 2024: 9:00am – 12:30pm

Russel Cowan

PRINCIPAL

Gordon Primary School Holiday Program - January 25

Week 1 13th-17th January				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Bike Play, Paper Plane Contest, Water Play, Cooking, Paint and Snack - Art Class 	Paddle Pop/Match Stick Creations, Music Workshop with Andrew Borg, Ballon Creations, Golf Target Practice 	Clay Creations, Drama Experience- create a play, The musical experience- Explore musical instruments and watch a musical play eg. "Cats". T- Ball 	Charcoal Drawing, Local Walk to tennis courts, Orienteering, Cricket 	Create a jigsaw, Sponge Water Bomb Play, Seed Planting, Cooking, T-Shirt Painting 
Week 2 - 20th-24th January				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Clay creations, Walk to Tennis courts, Cooking, Cricket, Water Play 	Shadow drawing, Build a solar oven, Make your own musical instrument, Capture the flag 	Ice block making, Kelly Sport Incursion, Animal Drawing, Treasure Hunt 	Polymer Clay creations, Bike Play, Group Mural 	Movie day(\$100)Paddington in Peru, Painting Experience in the art room, Frisbee 
Week 3- 28th January				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Public Holiday	Polymer clay creations, Local Walk hot chips at the park and a scavenger Hunt, Golf Practice 	School Resumes	School	School

Join us at Gordon Primary School from 7:30am-5:30pm for a fun-filled day during our Summer Holiday Program. Our activities are designed to align with the National Quality Framework and cater to the children's interests and needs. For only \$80 each day, we offer engaging free play along with planned creative and sport activities and quiet time.

We also have an exciting excursion to Showbiz Cinema in Delacombe! (\$100 for the day) Bookings are limited to 22 spots, so be sure to secure your place early to avoid disappointment. We look forward to a fantastic time with your children!

BOOKINGS ARE NOW OPEN, AND IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT US ON: PH- 0413 296 669

No New Enrolments after 17th December 2024



- 2nd December Grade 6 Fun Day—Adventure Park
- 5th December Bakers Delight Lunch
- 9th December Grade 6 Graduation—Ballarat Golf Club
- 10th December Prep Parent Information Night 6—7 pm
- 10th December Prep Transition day 9-12.30
- 10th December Grade 6 to Year 7 Transition day
- 11th—13th Dec. Grade 3 & 4 Lady Northcote Camp
- 16th December Whole School Presentation and Picnic Night 4.30
See flyer on page 10
- 18th December Whole School Funday
- 20th December Last day of Term 4—1.30 finish

- 13th—28th January VACATION CARE PROGRAM
See program flyer on page 4

- 29th January 2025 First day of school for 2025**

VALUES IN 2024 - 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 .



BIRTHDAYS

We would like to acknowledge students celebrating their birthdays in December. We will place your birthday bookmark in your teachers' pigeon hole.

Happy Birthday to: Zoe Kucz, Arla Thomas-Sharroch, Ava Bonar, Clemi Murphy, Jose Martin, Jude Joyce, Frankie Ellis and Lexi Donaghy.



CONGRATULATIONS

Elina Bonavia received a badge for reading the most books for the Premier's Reading Challenge in the Grade 2 class.



School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, we undertake a range of activities to ensure the safety of our school and to prepare for bushfires and grassfires. An important part of this process is communicating to parents what will happen when certain fire danger ratings are issued to help ensure the safety of students and staff.

Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a **Category 4 school.**

Our school will **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in **South West fire weather district**.

Closure of the school due to a Catastrophic fire danger rating will be enacted when the Bureau of Meteorology forecast and related public safety messaging are confirmed. Due to uncertainties in the forecast, the timing of this confirmation may vary. Information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by Compass and email.

It is also important to be aware that:

No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.

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

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

School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

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

Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements if our school is closed due to Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#).

- Action your family’s bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family’s safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to [them about bushfires](#) and your family’s bushfire survival plan. Families are encouraged to action their [Bushfire Survival Plan](#) on Catastrophic fire danger rating days in their district. The safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:
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.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the department’s policy?

The Department of Education annually assesses the fire risk of all schools and early childhood services with the support of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 6). Schools and services that are Categories 0-3 are published on the [Bushfire At-Risk Register \(BARR\)](#). Schools at some risk of bushfire and grassfire are published on the [Category 4 List](#).

The department’s [Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy](#) requires all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 List to close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled. The policy also requires that schools at the highest risk of bushfire (those in Categories 0, 1 and 2 of the Bushfire At-Risk Register) enact pre-emptive action plans based on the fire danger forecast for their Local Government Area (LGA).

Who issues fire danger forecasts?

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) provides public fire danger rating forecasts each day of the fire danger period using fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries. The department uses these forecasts when supporting schools to enact their pre-emptive bushfire actions plans.



COME & PLAY SUPER CLINIC

Tuesday 10th December 2024
City Oval, Ballarat
4pm to 5pm | Ages 5 - 12 years old



MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND.

To register your FREE attendance - Scan QR code
and fill in your details.

WESTERN BULLDOGS PLAYERS IN ATTENDANCE

Gordon Primary School

PRESENTATION PICNIC

AND CHRISTMAS CAROLS

MONDAY DEC 16TH | 4.30PM

@ GORDON PRIMARY SCHOOL
GORDO BASKETBALL COURT

JOIN US FOR A FESTIVE EVENING TO CELEBRATE THE END
OF THE SCHOOL YEAR!

GATHER YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND LOVED ONES FOR A
NIGHT OF MUSIC, SPECIAL GUESTS, AND HOLIDAY CHEER AS
WE CELEBRATE OUR STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS AND RING IN
THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

BYO PICNIC AND RUG.





Design & Shine T-Shirt Competition



SCHOOL
BREAKFAST
CLUBS PROGRAM

Here at Foodbank Victoria, we are thrilled to have distributed 50 million meals through the School Breakfast Clubs Program! This is an incredible achievement and is something to be celebrated by each and every school delivering Breakfast Clubs across Victoria. In the spirit of celebration, we are launching a T-shirt design competition! The theme is “Celebrate Breakfast” and we are inviting your school students to participate.

How to enter: [Visit the competition page](#) to view all competition details, Ts and Cs and download the design template. Students can complete their design and work with you or their parent/caregiver to submit their design to Foodbank Victoria. Winners will be announced in early Term 1, 2025.

The design: Students can explore the theme of ‘Celebrate Breakfast’ through their designs, and we encourage students to: Use colour, Get creative, Showcase their favourite healthy foods.

The prize: Winning design/s will be printed onto a T-shirt to be worn by members of the Foodbank Victoria School Breakfast Clubs Team. Winning designer/s will receive a T-shirt featuring their design and a certificate of recognition. We’ll share designs and photos of staff wearing the T-shirts with the winners and on our socials.

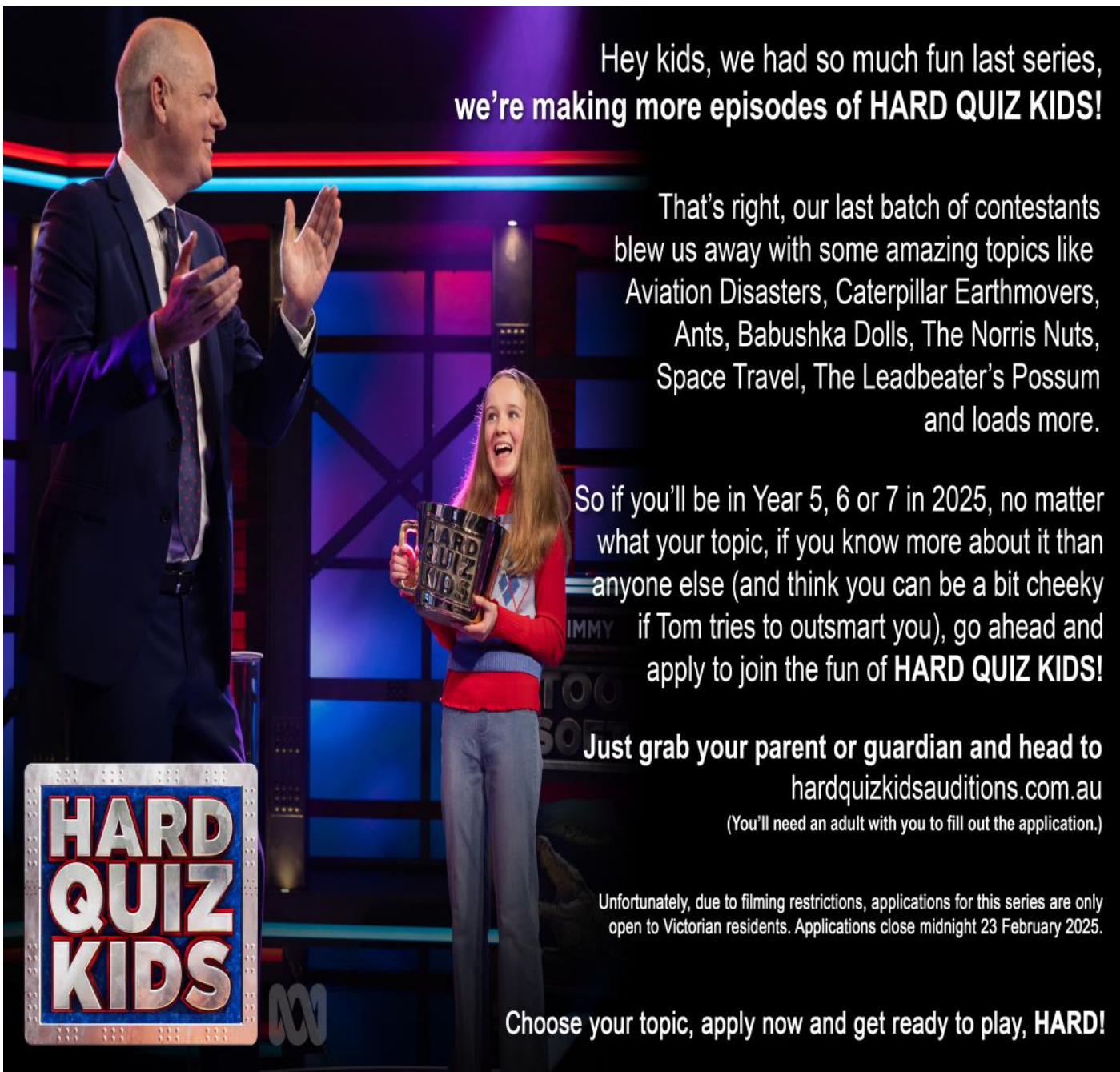
Closing date:

The competition is open from Thursday 21st November and will close at 11:59pm on Friday 20th December 2024.

Terms and Conditions:

Full competition terms and conditions are available at schoolbreakfastclubs.org.au/t-shirt-competition.

If you have any questions, please contact schoolbreakfastclub@foodbankvictoria.org.au



Hey kids, we had so much fun last series, we're making more episodes of **HARD QUIZ KIDS!**

That's right, our last batch of contestants blew us away with some amazing topics like Aviation Disasters, Caterpillar Earthmovers, Ants, Babushka Dolls, The Norris Nuts, Space Travel, The Leadbeater's Possum and loads more.

So if you'll be in Year 5, 6 or 7 in 2025, no matter what your topic, if you know more about it than anyone else (and think you can be a bit cheeky if Tom tries to outsmart you), go ahead and apply to join the fun of **HARD QUIZ KIDS!**

Just grab your parent or guardian and head to hardquizkidsauditions.com.au
(You'll need an adult with you to fill out the application.)

Unfortunately, due to filming restrictions, applications for this series are only open to Victorian residents. Applications close midnight 23 February 2025.

Choose your topic, apply now and get ready to play, HARD!

Applications are now open. We're looking for kids who'll be in **Year 5, 6 or 7 in 2025** who are an expert on a special topic.

Please print / distribute / email this flyer to whoever you think would be keen to apply. Kids will need to fill out the application with their parent/guardian here:

hardquizkidsauditions.com.au

Choose your topic, apply now and get ready to play, HARD!

Grass pollen season brings an increase in asthma and hay fever. It also brings the chance of thunderstorm asthma.

Thunderstorm asthma is thought to be triggered by a unique combination of high amounts of grass pollen in the air and a certain type of thunderstorm. For people who have asthma or hay fever this can trigger severe asthma symptoms.

If you have current, past or undiagnosed asthma or seasonal hay fever you are at risk of thunderstorm asthma. Even if you don't think you have asthma or hay fever, don't ignore symptoms like wheezing or shortness of breath.

Thunderstorm asthma can be sudden, serious and even life threatening.

Know the risks. Get prepared. Stay safe.

Learn more at <https://www.bhs.org.au/services-and-clinics/grampians-public-health-unit/thunderstorm-asthma/>

Do you suffer from asthma or hay fever?

Grass pollen season is here

Thunderstorm Asthma can be life-threatening.

Know the risks. Get prepared. Stay safe.

- See your GP about an asthma action plan or hay fever treatment plan
- Avoid thunderstorms - go indoors before and during thunderstorms.
- For forecasts & alerts, get the VicEmergency app
- Always carry your medication in grass pollen season
- Learn asthma first aid

Learn more

my.gh.org.au/thunderstormasthma

Grampians Health
Grampians Public Health Unit

Who are we? The Grampians Public Health Unit work to keep communities healthy by responding to health issues that may pose a risk to the public. We support fair, evidence-based, and sustainable initiatives that prevent disease and tackle the root causes of health issues.

Learn more about us at bhs.org.au/gphu.