Homework... This contentious subject normally comes up at this time of year. While there is definitely some value in it when issued correctly, it can also be problematic for parents and students.

I have seen many different attitudes to homework in the past. There are the homework hardliners. “The more homework the better”. These parents can have high expectations for their children and even higher expectations of the teacher — expecting them to set, monitor and correct every bit of schoolwork done at home.

The other side of the scale is the relaxed approach “Kids do enough learning at school”. After school is a time for relaxation, mucking about and expanding kids’ personal interests, according to this relaxed approach.

Whether you’re a homework hardliner, relaxed or fall somewhere in the middle, if your child struggles to do homework then it’s likely to become your ‘Number One Problem’ as a parent. There are some strategies that can assist you with this issue.

Before doing so, I need to declare my hand. I believe homework needs to assist rather than deter student learning, and it definitely shouldn’t harm parent-child relationships.

1. Reading is a non negotiable. Your child has to read and be read to every day as part of a homework routine. Make it fun and enjoyable to promote a love of reading.
2. A parent’s job is to encourage, assist, read through, help organise, even entice children to tackle homework. But, ultimately it’s their responsibility to do it, and the teacher’s responsibility to follow through.
3. Encourage strugglers to work quickly (not erratically or poorly) rather than procrastinate.
4. Do not, under any circumstances, complete homework for kids. By all means work alongside your child to help them understand what they are doing, read through difficult instructions, and help them make a start, but leave it for them to complete.
5. If your child has difficulties completing homework, communicate clearly and respectfully to the teacher concerned the challenges your child encountered. This will assist the teacher in setting future homework.

At Gordon PS we endeavour to set interesting, stimulating home tasks that motivate kids to learn. We do not set too much, however, where there is a need, teachers will use it to support school learning with specific outcomes in mind.

Holidays
The first term certainly flew past, but it has been extremely beneficial. I would like to wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday over the Easter Break. We do have a few events in term two and I encourage parents and careers to look at our calendar of events on the website or download the tiqbiz app to be sent reminders for every event.

School Council
Thank you to all the parents who came to our Annual General Meeting last Thursday night. I would like to thank and congratulate Joanne, Dale and Jason for being elected President, Vice President and Secretary respectively. These parents will be well supported by Duane, Jade, Ms Jones and myself.

Code of Conduct
It is always a great idea to read through the school Code of Conduct with your children as a refresher. Our COC can be found at http://gordonps.vic.edu.au/news/. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please feel free to discuss with me.

Athletics
Next term will see us participate in the athletics day. It would be beneficial to assist your children throughout the holiday in preparing for this event. This can be done by practicing their sprints, jumping and throwing over the holidays. We are also looking for some senior 1500m runners for this event. While this is open to everyone, students who did well at Cross Country would also succeed at this event.

Parent Teacher Interviews
It was great to see so many parents attend interviews on Tuesday. If you missed your appointment, please feel free to contact your child’s teacher to make a time to discuss your child’s progress and future goals / targets.

Happy Birthday
We would like to wish Lachlan Goss, Jaxon Giofches, Wayde Phillips, Zander Kourevellis, Tyler Hounsell-Bachelor, Madison Smith, Alannah Smith, Taylah Farrugia and Thomas Gardner a very Happy Birthday and also to any members of our community who are also celebrating their special day.

Cross Country
What a great effort by all of our students yesterday. I loved seeing the house colours and the many different costumes on display. On top of this we had some wonderful performances on the running course.
Students who have moved through to the next level will be notified at the start of next term. We will also be taking a team of students to the Ballan cross country event in April.

Have a great holiday,
Russel Cowan
Principal

RIDE TO SCHOOL DAY

I just wanted to follow up our successful Ride to School day by encouraging students and families to continue to be active over the holidays and into the colder months.

Here are our overall statistics from Ride to School Day:
- 70 students rode
- 10 walked
- 21 came by car

This was a massive improvement on numbers in comparison to last year.

Well Done!
Miss Crane

Captain’s Corner

Hi there I’m back again and for the last Captain’s Corner for this term. Last week were the grade 1’s and this week are the Preps. They have learnt sooo much this term. Hopefully you are liking Captain’s Corner. It’s something new and different for our weekly newsletter.

The preps have been learning about the letter ‘K’ and the number ‘5’. Word of the week was ‘and’ the letter of the week was ‘a’. They loved the Stephanie Alexander Program, which I think most people love anyway. Also as it is nearly Easter they are doing a lot of Easter activities. As well as that they have been working on Aboriginal Culture, Dreamtime stories and Aboriginal symbols. Lastly the reading strategy was “lips the fish”.

Thank you for reading the Captain’s Corner for this term. I liked them as well.

Have a nice holiday!

See you next term!

Tilly

Newsletter Report

Parents and Community Committee (P&C)

Thank you, thank you to everyone who assisted at Gordon Market Day last Saturday - Carmen, Hend, Julie Jones, Nicki, Rowena and myself. It was a fantastic effort and thank you to those whom added extra time to your shift :-) We had a wonderful array of cakes and baked items too - thank you to everyone who cooked, dropped off and/or dropped them in. The P&C raised just over $400 on the day.

All members of our school community are welcome to come along to ANY meeting. The next night meeting is the first Wed after the holidays!

Join us on Facebook: Gordon Primary School Parents and Community

Have a fun, safe holiday break.

Nicole Smith
nicolesmith72@hotmail.com
### March 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
<th>Sun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assembly</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>Easter Saturday</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### April 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
<th>Sun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Day Term Two</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assembly</td>
<td></td>
<td>School Council Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANZAC Day</td>
<td>Maldon Train Excursion</td>
<td>P &amp; C Cuppa &amp; Chat</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All dates were correct at the time of going to print however they may be subject to change.
Stephanie Alexander Junior Cooking Day
Ballan Autumn Festival Parade
Stephanie Alexander Senior Classes
Cross Country
School Holiday Program

Week 1

Tue 29 March
Lerderderg Library
10am- MOVIE inside out
Ages: 5+

Wed 30 March
Ballan Library
10am
Make a Zine (mini magazine)
Ages: 8+

Thurs 31 March
Lerderderg Library
10am- Games Day
Ages: 5+

Fri 1 April
Lerderderg Library
10am- Open Cupboard Craft
Ages: 5+

Ballan Community House
1.30pm Games Day
Ages: 5+

Parental Supervision Required
Bookings Essential

RSVP 53667100 info@moorabool.vic.gov.au

Week 2

Mon 4 April
Lerderderg Library
10am- Techno Fun
Turn household items into a keyboard
Ages 5+

Wed 6 April
Ballan Community House
10am- Techno Fun
Turn household items into a keyboard
Ages 5+

Thurs 7 April
Lerderderg Library
10am- Games Day
Ages 5+

Fri 8 April
Lerderderg Library
10am
Playstation Tournament
Ages: 8+
Prize for the winner

Ballan Community House
1.30pm- Open Craft
Ages: 5+

Parental Supervision Required
Bookings Essential

RSVP 53667100 info@moorabool.vic.gov.au

ART EXHIBITION
1ST APRIL - 29TH APRIL
LERDERDERG LIBRARY

For all young people aged between 12 - 25 years
Prizes awarded to entries judged 1st 2nd & 3rd

Entries are open to all media:
Paintings • Drawings • Photography • Sculpture
Craft • Design • Installation • Prints • Mixed Media

Entries close 28th March for further information and how to enter please contact Moorabool Youth Services on 5366 7100 or at the following:
youthservices@moorabool.vic.gov.au facebook.com/mooraboolyouthservices