

EAGLE EXPRESS

Email: gormandale.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Thursday, 16th February 2023



LEARNER



RESPECTFUL



SAFE

Gormandale and District Primary School fosters a community learning environment in which each and every member is nurtured to become a confident lifelong learner.



We acknowledge the Gunaikurnai people as the traditional custodians of the land upon which we meet. We pay our respects to the Elders of the past, present and future.

Principals' Report



Dear GDPS Community,

It has been an exciting first few weeks of the school year. Our classrooms are buzzing with learning! The positive impact of our classroom and instruction routines are evident in all areas of our school. Many of our grade 6 students have been wearing their new grade 6 jackets with pride.

Meet the Teachers Welcome BBQ

We hope to see many of our school community members in attendance at our welcome barbeque this evening. Loaded sausages or hamburgers with Tricia's famous coleslaw are on the menu.

Pancake Breakfast

Pancake day is next Tuesday, but as I will be attending the network Principal's meeting, we will be hosting our pancake breakfast on Thursday morning from 8:40am to 9:00am instead. Students who wish to participate will need \$1. This is great value as \$1 will get them three deliciously topped pancakes; should you feel your child may like to eat more than one serving please send an extra \$1. The funds raised will go toward the cost of ingredients and our student leaders fundraising.

New Staff Member

We are very excited to welcome Mackenzie onboard with us as a new Education Support Staff Member. Mackenzie will work across all of our classrooms and run some playground engagement activities at recess and lunch.



WHAT'S COMING UP?

Thursday 16th
Welcome BBQ

Tuesday 21st
Principal Network Meeting

Wednesday 22nd
Prep Rest Day

Thursday 23rd
Pancake Breakfast

Friday 24th
Assembly 2:45 PM

Wednesday 1st
Prep Rest Day

Wednesday 8th
GDPS Athletics

Thursday 9th
School Photos

Monday 13th
Labour Day Public Holiday

GDPS Bank Details

BSB 033-222

ACC 019138

Gormandale & District PS Council

February

March

Facilities Upgrades

There have been many works being completed behind the scenes on our facilities. We have had our sandpit topped up with new sand, additional bark on the top playground and some reorganising and cleaning up in the 'big green shed'. The most exciting upgrade of all is our new PA system. Our bells were run through the school's original PA system which was installed nearly three decades ago. Our new system will use music as to alert students to begin to transition to our line up area. The new system also allows us to have a speaker in our Art room.

Student Leaders

Next Friday at assembly, we will announce the positions of our 2023 student leaders. The selection process for school captain roles includes voting from all students and the review of written applications by staff. Each of our 5/6 students will receive a specific role aiming to encourage all students to participate in school learning and engagement activities. Our 5/6 students have prepared written applications and will present speeches to their peers. Student Leader Roles will be selected through a peer voting process and staff review of applications.

School Council Needs You!

At the beginning of each year, GDPS requests nominations from parents/careers to be part of our School Council. Membership to School Council is for a 2 year period. Parents on school councils provide important view points and have valuable skills and a range of experiences and knowledge that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

If you are interested please give me a call or pick up a nomination form from the GDPS office.

Nominations will close on Thursday, the 2nd of March. School Council meets 8 times a year. The meetings run from 6:30pm to approximately 8:30pm. Our School Council configuration is 10 members – 7 parents and 3 DET representatives.

Curriculum Contribution - Parent Payments

Thank you to those families who have been able to make their Curriculum Contribution Payments this year; this contribution does have a significant impact on our school resourcing. Of course, all students are provided with high quality teaching and learning, however the voluntary contribution from families does enable GDPS to purchase resources to further enhance our programs.

Lunch Orders

Parents Club are very excited to announce that lunch orders will be returning next week! Lunch order envelopes are provided with this newsletter and additional envelopes are readily available at the office. We are always seeking any volunteers that are able to assist with lunch orders on a Tuesday. If you are available or would like some more information, please see Michelle or I at the office.

School-wide Spelling Program

This year we have implemented a new spelling program from grades 1-6. Spelling Mastery is a differentiated spelling program. The program uses an explicit, teacher-directed method of teaching called Direct Instruction. Spelling Mastery is an effective, research-proven spelling program that teaches students the strategies they need to become successful, life-long spellers. Spelling Mastery helps students to understand the relationship between sounds, word parts and spelling patterns and encourages them to become proficient writers. This occurs during a timetabled block where students break into small multi-age groups.

Class Overviews

Today all students will bring home a typical 'weekly snapshot' glued into their diaries. This weekly snapshot provides an overview of the subjects that are typically delivered to students on each day. This allows students to feel prepared knowing what to expect each day and can also provide families a scaffold for discussing their child's day e.g 'Tell me about what you did in Science today'. With all things in life, there may be events that pop up which will require us to make adjustments to our schedules but all classes adhere to routines as best as possible.

New Bottom Playground Update

I am pleased to share that we have an anticipated starting date for our highly anticipated new playground. The most current information I have from contractors is that we are expecting to begin works in May. Michelle and I are meeting with the architects in the coming weeks and I hope to have more information to share in the next newsletter.

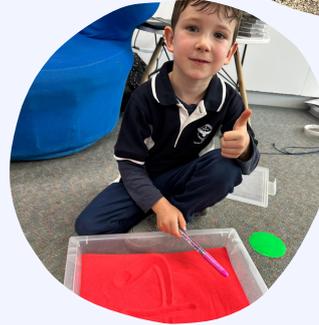
I hope everyone enjoys the warm sunny weather this weekend!

Charleigh Williams

JUNIOR ROOM

P/1 MS WILLIAMS & MRS ANTHOFER

This week, we made the most of the sunshine and got outside to practise some of our maths learning! We have been focusing on positional language. After listening to the story 'Rosie's Walk', we went out to practise some words such as over, down, up, through, across, next to, around and under. The preps have put their prewriting lines 'tall man' and 'sideways sideways' to good work when practising writing the letter t. The grade 1's have been looking at the vowel teams ai and ee, and have been building their fluency through paired reading.



MIDDLE ROOM

2/3/4 MRS JUDKINS

We have been practicing skip counting this week in the 2/3/4 room. Students have been 'popping' out number patterns with large 100 chart pop-its, investigating number patterns on the calculator, and getting practice with skip counting fluency with weaving.



SENIOR ROOM

5/6 MS ELRICK & MR HARRISON

Over the last two weeks, the grade 5/6 class have been very busy!

We had a visit from Harold and the Life Education Program, with the focus being 'Relate, Respect, Connect', where we learned all about friendships and other relationships (parents, family, teachers, etc.).

We have had a strong focus in our writing lessons on using interesting story starters to engage and 'hook' our readers in, as well as using a wider vocabulary. Our stories this week, have been influenced by an image entitled, 'Into the forest...'

Our emerging leaders are getting prepared to present their speeches next week.

We are excited to welcome back our Somers Campers, Billy, Billie-Rose and Nellie, after a massive 9 days away! We can't wait to hear their stories.



SPECIALIST

HEALTH, SCIENCE & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

- In Health, students have been learning about diversity and appreciating differences in others.
- In Science, students have been looking at states of matter, experimenting with mixing them together and reversible and irreversible changes.
- In Technology, students have been learning about software and hardware. Our 2-6 students have also started Typing Club which has been a huge hit!



ATTENDANCE

Last year, more than 45% of our students missed 4 weeks or more of school. If a student misses 4 weeks of school per year, that's over half a year of missed school by the time they are in grade 6.

In your child's end of Semester report last year, it will have a total count of the days absent per semester. Whilst illness is unavoidable, if students are well, they should be attending school each day.

This year, we are aiming to reduce the number of average absent days per student. We are going to create displays around our school to record and track our attendance percentages. The class that has the highest attendance rate for the week will receive a reward on a Thursday and a certificate at assembly.

The class that has the highest percentage overall for the term will win a class party.

Students will also receive attendance awards at our end of term assemblies to recognise their efforts.



ASSEMBLY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Eagle Award Recipients

P/1
Trey
Willow

2/3/4
Milla
Bella

5/6
Vicki
Levi