



# Gordon East Public School

Built on the land of the Guringai people

Safe, respectful learners

Term 1 – Issue 2  
19 February 2021

## School Newsletter

### Diary Dates

- **Friday 26 February**
  - PSSA (T-Ball at St Ives Village Green, Cricket at Lofberg Oval)
- **Friday 5 March**
  - No PSSA (Zone Swimming)

Last Day of Term 1 Thursday 1 April  
Students Return Tuesday 20 April

### From the Principal – Mrs Ruth White

Dear Families,

Here we are almost halfway through term 1 already! What a busy 2 weeks it has been. I am pleased to announce, that we have been successful in our submission for a COLA (Covered Outdoor Learning Area) as part of the Department of Education's Metro-Renewal Program. This is a jointly funded project between the school and Department of Education. Things are moving fast and I am hopeful that we should see the project completed reasonably quickly. This will be a wonderful addition to our school environment serving both our students as a learning and play space and also our school community as a whole.

### Meet the Teacher Evenings

This week, we held our Meet the Teacher evenings. These were an opportunity to meet your child's class teacher, gain an overview of classroom organisation and aspects of the curriculum to be covered throughout the year. Parent Teacher Interviews will be held towards the end of term 1. More details for dates and times to follow shortly.

### COVID-19 symptoms can include:



If your child is sick, keep them at home and get them tested for COVID-19.



### School Vision

Gordon East Public School is a welcoming and collaborative school community that supports high quality learning. Quality teachers inspire students to be creative and critical thinkers enabling them to become active and informed global citizens.

**Safe Respectful Learners – Safe Parents, safe children – Road safety**No parking areas around school

I would like to remind families that we have No Parking and 5 minute parking areas at the front of the school on Rosedale Road and **now also in Elgin Street**. Unfortunately, we continue to have drivers parking for longer than the 2 minutes, 3 metre road rules permits on the school side, or longer than the 5 minutes allowed on the opposite side. This is creating a hazard for the morning drop off and afternoon pick up. Please remember, long term parking is not permitted in these areas during school time zones.

When using the 2 minute, 3 metre kiss and drop zone, please remember to keep moving up the line before moving off.

**NO PARKING ROAD RULES:** You can only stop in a No Parking zone while picking up or setting down passengers or goods. You have maximum of 2 minutes from when you park and must stay within 3 metres of your vehicle at all times. If times of operation are shown on the sign, the restriction applies only at those times.

**This is NOT a waiting zone**

**Child protection**

Each year as part of the NSW PDHPE syllabus, it is a requirement to teach Child Protection Education to all students K-6. Below is an overview of what students learn about as part of child protection education. Should you not wish your child to participate in these lessons, please contact your class teacher.

Child protection education aims to assist students to develop skills to:

- recognise and respond to unsafe situations
- seek assistance effectively
- establish and maintain non-coercive relationships and strengthen attitudes and values related to equality, respect and responsibility.

Through Child Protection Education in NSW schools, students learn:

- about feeling safe and the right to be safe
- to recognise appropriate touching and inappropriate touching
- that appropriate touching is an important part of positive relationships
- that they have a right to say NO to a person who touches them inappropriately or threatens their safety
- that it is important to tell trusted adults about such situations
- that they may have to keep on telling people until they are believed
- that help is available to them within their communities.

### Swimming Carnival

The swimming carnival was on last Wednesday. Thank you to Mrs White for all her organisation and also Mr Fowler who assisted as well. Thank you also to all the parent volunteers for their time on the day. It was wonderful to be able to welcome some spectators to our first whole school event of the year.

Without everyone's help across the community, carnivals which are huge events, wouldn't be as successful as they are.



*Ruth White*

Principal





# Merits

	Tuesday 9 February 2021		Tuesday 16 February 2021
KL	Isabel H, Ben L	KL	Sam B, Russell G
KR	Sienna A, Malachi W	KR	Martina J, Joshua C
1C	Hannah L, Marcus L	1C	Keira B, Reid M
1M	Emi K, Dylan H	1M	Ava V, Isaac M
2M	George S, Bella R	2M	Chloe L, Oliver H
3/2A	Isla H, Joshua H	3/2A	Catherine F, Sienna P
4/3C	John S, Zoe L	4/3C	Chloe T, Yoonku H
4/3F	Eileen S, Ollie H	4/3F	Hannah J, Karishma P
4/3W	Jacob M, Joe Y	4/3W	Ariane A, Rhiannon J
6/5P	Ollie C, Alon R, Loki L	6/5P	Amy A, Liam R, Sophia B
6/5S	Ethan W, Amelie S, Casey X	6/5S	Brandon W, Kalani L, Ronan J
6/5WS	Annabel W, Sunita P, Callum S	6/5WS	Dilan W, Sophie B, Amy Wu



## Musical News

Dear GEPS families,

Welcome to 2021! We hope to make beautiful music together this year and there are many opportunities for your children!

SENIOR CHOIR for Year 5 and 6 students will be held on Thursdays first half of lunch on the silver seats.

INTERMEDIATE CHOIR for Year 3 and 4 students will be held on Fridays second half of lunch on the silver seats.

JUNIOR CHOIR for Year 1 and 2 students will be held on Wednesdays first half of lunch on the silver seats.

Please encourage your child to come along and see if they would like to join a choir.

RECORDER ENSEMBLE will start later in Term 1 and will be open to all students from Year 3 - 6, with preference given to older students.

Ms Vallentine  
Gordon East Specialist Classroom Music Teacher

## Harmony Week

Harmony Week is a time to celebrate Australian multiculturalism, and the successful integration of migrants into our community. Australia is one of the most successful multicultural countries in the world, here at GEPS we celebrate this and work to maintain it.

**The message of Harmony Week is Everyone Belongs.** It is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values.

The message of respect and belonging can be lived by each of us, every day, not just during Harmony Week.

We will be celebrating Harmony Week in week 8, Monday 15 March – Friday 19 March. Students are asked to wear a **splash of orange** to school each day. This may be an orange ribbon, orange socks, an orange badge, head band or bracelet. Students will also participate in a variety of related learning activities.



## From the P&C

### President Report

I would like to welcome and thank all of the P&C Officers who've agreed to either continue or take up new positions in our P&C this year. Many of the people working for our P&C are volunteers and I greatly appreciate the time and effort everyone puts in to their roles, much of which takes place quietly in the background and is essential to our continuing operation.

The P&C have had as busy start to the year as we re-establish events and programmes after the disruption caused by Covid-19 last year. I appreciate everyone's patience whilst we get everything underway once again and I'm hopeful that 2021 will serve as a year of reconnection for our community.

The school is working on its school plan for 2021 and I look forward to supporting the outcomes the school identifies as being its focus over the coming year.



#### Strings & Ukulele

In the meantime, the P&C has been working hard to try to restart the Strings and Ukulele programmes and, unfortunately, we did not manage to raise a sufficient number of students across the classes to make the programmes viable this year. This is terribly disappointing for those of our students who have enjoyed their participation in Strings and Ukulele previously and the decision not to continue those groups this year has been a very carefully considered and difficult one.

One of the Strings co-ordinators, Michelle Howland, left Gordon East at the end of last year and I would like to thank her for her many years of work on behalf of the Strings ensemble. Michelle has been an integral part of the Strings programme here at GEPS and her input was very much appreciated.

#### Uniform Shop Vacancy

After many years of running the uniform shop here at GEPS, and at least two years after her last child left our school, Katie McAvooy has decided to step down as our uniform shop manager. Katie has been a constant fixture at our uniform shop at least during my time here and I am certainly sad to see her go. I should like to thank her for her many years of service to our P&C and to our school community and to wish her well in the future.

This means that we now have a vacancy for a uniform shop manager, which is a paid position. This will be advertised shortly, so please look out for that. If you are interested and think it may be just the thing you were looking for to fill a few hours of your week, please let me know.

#### Covid-19 Safety Plans

It is now mandatory for P&Cs to have completed such a Covid-19 Safety Plan for all events and meetings. We have also chosen to register our P&C for a QR code, which we now have and everyone attending the P&C meeting on in person on Tuesday signed in using it, as required by our plan. Thank you to Sally Pearman for registering our P&C and obtaining the QR code for us.

#### Wishlist Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021

The next P&C meeting is our Wishlist meeting, which will take place on the **16<sup>th</sup> March 2021**. The purpose of the meeting is to identify areas of focus and priority for our spending over the coming year. If anyone has any items they wish to include, please let me have details, which will need to include costings and a detailed breakdown of what is being sought, why and identified suppliers. Ideally, the priority of items on our wishlist should reflect the focus of the school and the outcomes it is aiming for in 2021.

I acknowledge that the arrangements for the Wishlist meeting may need to accommodate more people on site, than our meeting on Tuesday, given the nature of that meeting. I will be considering this in conjunction with our school Principal, Mrs White and of course in the context of any restrictions that may be in place at the time.

### **Social Media / Communications Manager**

Over the course of this year there are a number of policies I am hoping we can adopt, such as a code of conduct and social media policy, amongst others. I am also hoping to make more use of our P&C tab on the school's website, and our Facebook page, to make information as accessible as possible. To assist with this, I am going to be seeking a volunteer for the role of social media/communications manager. Please look out for more information in relation to that if it is something that may suit your skills and interests. It will likely be a role that you could fit around other commitments and I don't envisage that it will be particularly time consuming.

### **Used Uniform Initiative**

I am also seeking a volunteer to look into and report back on an initiative that has been brought to my attention by a member of our community. The Worn-Up Project aims to recycle old school uniforms and keep them out of the landfill. A number of local schools are taking part in the initiative and have received funding from Kuring-Gai Council to support it. If anyone would like to obtain more information and details about this initiative and report back, please get in touch.

### **Class Parents**

All of the class parent positions have now been filled for 2021. Thank you to everyone who put their hands up and offered their time. We had an exceptional response to our call-out for support and we certainly appreciated all of your offers of help. Some classes had several parents who were prepared to help and if you're disappointed at missing out and would like to support our community, there are always lots of other ways in which you might contribute to and support our community.

Kiah Wolton-Phillips  
P&C President

### **Book Club**

Hopefully everyone that wanted to place orders from Issue 1 of the Scholastics Book Club catalogue has had a chance to do so, with online orders closing 1pm today. Books should ideally be received and sorted ready for distribution within 2 weeks and Issue 2 of the Book Club catalogue available shortly thereafter.

If you have any questions in regards to Book Club please contact me at [bookclub@gordoneastpandc.org.au](mailto:bookclub@gordoneastpandc.org.au)

Thanks  
Shari Allinson

### **Canteen**

We've been having lots of fun in the canteen these last couple of weeks. Do you know that since the beginning of term we've made 774 cheesy sticks? They're that popular!

Thanks to all the people that have answered the call to volunteer. You are very much appreciated. We still need lots more though. We have 81 shifts to cover over the whole term and we currently have 51 filled. This is a good percentage; however, it would be great to get everything filled as soon as possible so we know we're covered for the term. There is still plenty of choice in terms of shifts, so have a look and see what you're able to do. Without volunteers the canteen can't stay open and we rely on our wonderful school community to volunteer so that we can.

To volunteer, if you are a parent or close relative of a child at the school, you will need a Dept of Education working with children check. If you don't have one yet, they're super easy to do & don't cost a penny. There is a form in the office that you can ask for, fill it in, show one form of ID (e.g. passport, driver's license) and you're done. It's that easy. This will cover

you for anything you may want to volunteer for at school like excursions, reading groups, athletics carnival, canteen, year 6 farewell etc. and it covers you for the entire time your child is at school, so once done you won't need to do it again. If you're not sure if you have one, call the school office and they will check for you.

Please note: this is not the same as a P&C Working with Children Check.

When you place an order using Flexischools, please be aware that the cut off time is 8.45am on the morning of the canteen day. If you miss that time, you will not be able to place an order for that day. Could I encourage you to not leave it until the morning to place your order? Sometimes Flexischools goes down (not often, but it does happen) and it makes the morning very stressful for all concerned when you can't place an order. If you place it the day before or even several days before, you avoid this problem because you have time to deal with technical issues.

The last couple of weeks, people have missed the cut-off time and have been placing orders at the canteen door. This is not sustainable and we can't continue this going forward. The flow on effect from it is bigger than you might think. We are working with minimal numbers of volunteers due to Covid restrictions and we do not have the extra time to take and process your order manually. In addition, we have to place our order for Sushi by a certain time in the morning to give our supplier time to make the order. Late orders make it very difficult for this to be done on time. One week we had to call them back five separate times to place additional orders which isn't really fair to them. Also, I then need to chase families to pay for the order placed, which means involving the already very busy school office staff, and it is often several weeks before the canteen receives payment.

We don't want there to be any hungry kids at lunch time which is why we've tried to accommodate these requests to date, however, I must encourage everyone to place canteen orders before the cut off time & preferably before the day the order is required, to avoid your child missing out.

Thanks,  
Alex

Gordon East P&C Canteen

<https://volunteersignup.org/YRMHQ>



## Term 1 Volunteers 2021

Volunteer signup sheet  
[volunteersignup.org](https://volunteersignup.org)

## **Band**

All 3 bands have made a fantastic start to the year! Monique, Naomi and I have reported excellent first rehearsals. All our musicians were so eager to get into music once again.

We do still have some vacancies in our bands and would like to speak to any student who is interested in playing euphonium, trombone, keyboard or percussion. If your child is keen to join please email [gepsband@gmail.com](mailto:gepsband@gmail.com)

Invoices will go out this weekend for Training Band, Senior Concert Band and instrument hire.  
Keep practicing and see you at band!

Kellye Bettman  
GEPS Band Director



## Environs

The date for our annual Environs working bee has been set of the 11th September. More information to follow.

## Events

The current Covid-19 restrictions mean that we are limited to having a maximum of 50 people at any outdoor gathering and we are therefore postponing our Welcome Event until later in the year, when restrictions will hopefully relax further. So please watch this space.



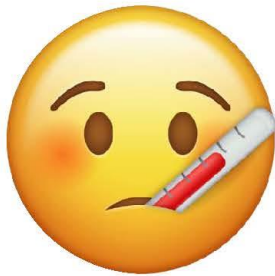
## COVID SAFETY AT GEPS

### Sick or unwell?



Parents, visitors, staff and students must not come to school or a community event if they are unwell. Even with very mild symptoms.

### COVID testing



Need to get a COVID test? The nearest testing clinics to Gordon East PS include

- **Killara Histopath Pathology Drive-through Clinic** 28 Stanhope Road, Dalcross Private Hospital Killara, 2071, Killara, NSW , AU
- **Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital** Burdett Street, Building 93, 2077, Hornsby, NSW, AU
- **Ryde Respiratory Clinic** 11 Khartoum Road, 2113, Macquarie Park, NSW, AU

Please go to [https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others/clinics/list?pcode=&suburb=undefined&type=all&request\\_id=0.2038061901922883#dcs-search-result](https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others/clinics/list?pcode=&suburb=undefined&type=all&request_id=0.2038061901922883#dcs-search-result) for further information on COVID testing clinics.

Students and staff with flu-like symptoms will need to be tested and provide a copy of a negative COVID-19 test result and be symptom-free before being permitted to return to school.

### Let's stop the spread



Get the COVIDSafe app. More information can be found at [https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covidsafe-app?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIs-uewLzH7gIVgQVYCh2QCQiQEAAAYASAAEgI1VPD\\_BwE](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covidsafe-app?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIs-uewLzH7gIVgQVYCh2QCQiQEAAAYASAAEgI1VPD_BwE).

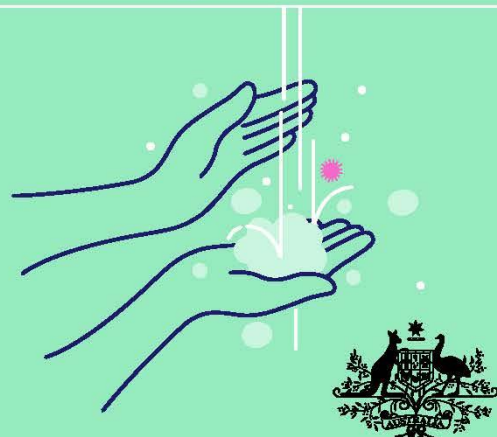
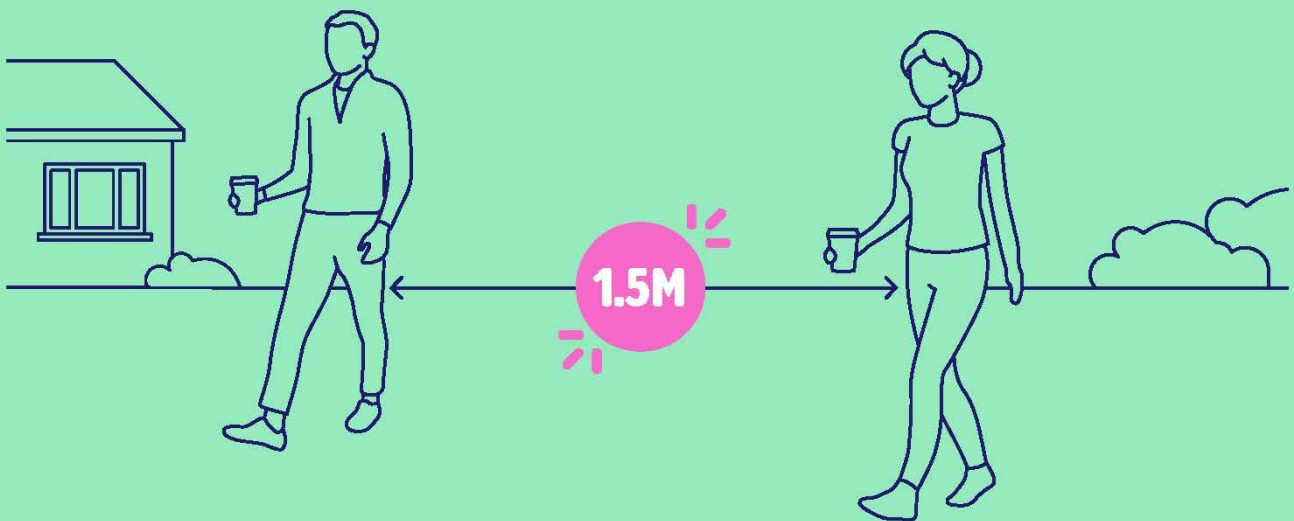


# Keep physical distancing and **BE COVIDSAFE**



Physical distancing is working to help keep us all COVIDSafe. Remember, whenever you go out, stay 1.5 metres apart and avoid physical greetings. Follow guidelines in shops and businesses and always practise good hygiene. This will help stop the spread of coronavirus.

Together, let's **BE COVIDSAFE**.  
Visit **health.gov.au** for more information.



Australian Government

**GORDON SOCCER CLUB 2021**  
[www.gordonsoccerclub.com.au](http://www.gordonsoccerclub.com.au)

**Register now for the 2021 winter season**  
(closes on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February or when teams are at capacity)

For more information and to register visit [www.gordonsoccerclub.com.au](http://www.gordonsoccerclub.com.au)

**U6 to U18, mixed (boys & girls) teams**  
**U11 & U12 Girls Only Sunday teams**

- Match times for U6 to U18 teams are Saturday mornings from Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April to August
- U6 & U7 age groups are friend oriented and ungraded
- U8 and above age groups are graded, and teams are formed according to grading results and match play (play with friends not guaranteed)
- Grading Day for U8-U11 is Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February. U12 Grading Evening is Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm
- Girls only U6 & U7 Hub also have an option for 9am Sunday skills session followed by a fun game. Play on Saturday and Sunday with a single registration.

Uniform (socks, shorts and other merchandise) will be sold on the following days:

- U6 & U7 Welcome to Gordon Soccer Day, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March at Darnley Oval. 9-10am for U6's and 10-11am for U7's.
- On Sunday afternoons, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> of March and 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of April from 3-4pm at the equipment shed at Darnley Oval. Payment by cash or credit card

Gordon Soccer Club accepts NSW Active Kids Vouchers (\$100 rebate)  
<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/active-kids>



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