

Goornong Primary School Newsletter

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Friday 3rd February, 2023

Issue 01



Our school values—**teamwork**, **respect**, **honesty** and **care**.

Dates to Remember

A reminder that Prep students have a rest day and do not attend school on Wednesdays during February.

Term 1

Fri 17th Feb	MARC Library
Sun 19th Feb	Welcome Back to School Pool Party
Mon 20th Feb	School Council Meeting
Fri 24th Feb	Cluster Swim Carnival, Elmore (Gr 3-6s)
Wed 1st Mar	Preps first Wednesday at school.
Fri 3rd Mar	MARC Library
Fri 11th Mar	MARC Library
Mon 13th Mar	Public Holiday
Wed 15th Mar	Year 3 & 5 NAPLAN Writing Test
Thurs 16th Mar	Year 3 & 5 NAPLAN Reading Test
Fri 17th Mar	MARC Library
Mon 20th Mar	Year 3 & 5 NAPLAN Language Test School Council AGM & Meeting
Tues 21st Mar	Year 3 & 5 NAPLAN Numeracy Test
Fri 31st Mar	MARC Library
Thurs 6th April	Last day of Term 1, 2.15 dismissal
Fri 7th April	Good Friday

2023 Term Dates

Term One	31st Jan—6th Apr
Term Two	24th Apr—23rd June
Term Three	10th July—15th Sept
Term Four	2nd Oct—20th Dec

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is back for another year. The Breakfast Club will run each Wednesday morning in the staff room and offers a free breakfast of toast, cereal, fruit and a milo.



We are asking students who wish to attend to arrive at school between 8.15am—8.30am. Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide breakfast to students who arrive after 8.30am.

Karren Jackman

Breakfast Club Coordinator

Weekly Awards

Award	This Week	Last Week
P-2 Literacy 	Riley B	—
P-2 Maths 	Lavina G	—
P-2 Values 	Patrick S	—
3-6 Literacy 	Brock K	—
3-6 Maths 	Amy O	—
3-6 Values 	Harry M	—
Principal Award 	Eddie S	—

Welcome Back to School BBQ & Fun Day

We invite all of our families and members of our school community to our **'Welcome Back to School BBQ'** at the Goornong Swimming Pool.

Sunday 19th February, 12noon—2pm.

Free Sausage Sizzle.

Drinks available for purchase from the pool kiosk.

Opportunity to meeting new teachers and new families.

Please join us for a fun afternoon.

There will be no entry cost for this event—thank you to the Goornong Pool Committee for this!

*To assist with catering, we ask that families please RSVP by returning the form attached to today's newsletter.



Our After School Care program is back up and running for 2023. The students who have attended this week have had loads of fun participating a range of activities, including **what have they been up to???** We would love to have more students coming along so please feel free to enrol your child and book them in so they can see what all the fuss is about. To enrol your child go to: <https://www.oshclub.com.au/vic/goornong-primary-school/> and click on the *Join OSHClub* button.

What's coming up at OSHClub?

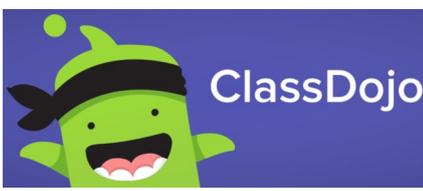
TERM 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK 2		Arts & Crafts Make a poster of your summer holiday			Arts & Crafts Make a poster of your summer holiday
WEEK 3					

For children attending the colour fun run please send a white t-shirt with them that you don't mind getting covered in coloured powder



COMMUNICATION APPLICATIONS

There are a couple of 'smart phone Apps' that our school uses to communicate and connect with parents and families.

	<p>We use Class Dojo to share happenings in the classroom with parents. It allows teachers, students and families to stay connected and build a close-knit community. We are excited to be able to share what's being learned in the classroom with parents through photos, videos and messages.</p> <p>Parents will soon receive a sheet containing easy to follow steps on how to connect to Class Dojo, including their 2023 class codes, which are different from the 2022 ones.</p> <p>If you have any further questions in regards to Class Dojo feel free to contact your child's teacher.</p>
	<p>The UEducateUs system is the primary tool for the school to communicate administration and logistical messages. Parents are also able to book their interview time during scheduled Parent-Teacher Interviews and access a digital version of their child's report through UEducateUs. As such, We strongly encourage all parents to download the UEducateUs App onto their smart phone and to enable notifications. For our new families, a letter is attached to today's newsletter with your username and password. If you need any help in getting this setup, please feel free to come and see Jacinta on a Tuesday or Wednesday and she will be happy to assist.</p>

Whilst these Apps do have messaging capability for parents, we would prefer that parents contact the school by phone if they need to inform their child's teacher or the school of something important.

Principal's Report

Welcome to the 2023 school year! I trust that all students, parents, staff and members of our school community enjoyed a safe and relaxing summer holidays with family and friends.

As we begin the school year, please feel free to come and see me if you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's schooling, or have any questions or concerns.

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

This year we have eight new Prep students beginning at Goornong PS. Welcome to Robert, Darcie, Edwin, Lavina, Poppy, Rosie, Amity and Bryttney who are beginning their primary education this year. We hope you all make lots of friends and enjoy learning and playing at Goornong PS!

WELCOME NEW FAMILIES

This year we welcome four new families into our school community. We look forward to building a strong partnership with you all. We understand that starting at a new school may be daunting so please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

It has been wonderful to see all students proudly wearing the Goornong PS uniform over the first week of the new school year. Thank you to all parents and students who have supported our uniform policy.

A copy of our Uniform Policy is available on our website.

There are some second hand uniform items available for sale at the reception desk. Please see Jacinta or Tearnal if you wish to make a purchase.

HATS AT SCHOOL

Well done to those students who have been organised with their hat! A reminder that hats need to be worn from mid-August until the end of April as part of our school's SunSmart Policy. Please ensure that your child has a navy blue wide-brimmed hat to wear at school. Students who do not have a hat are asked to play in the shade on the Outdoor Learning Space during playtime and lunchtime.

Please note that on days of extreme heat we tend to stay indoors during playtime and lunchtime.

FRESH FRUIT AT SCHOOL

The school day can be very long for some students and as such, our school offers a short break during class time where the students may eat some fresh fruit. This break is usually at about 10am and runs for about five minutes. In this time students are able to eat fresh fruit such as apples, bananas, grapes or carrots.

We do ask that parents send only fresh fruit which their

child is able to eat promptly during the fruit break. Other foods such as chips and processed fruits can be eaten at playtime.

In the past we have found that some students have used the fruit break as an opportunity to delay returning to their schoolwork. As such, once the fruit break is finished we ask students to place any unfinished fruit in their lunchbox, which can then be finished at playtime.

ASSEMBLY

There are two assemblies each week at Goornong PS. The first is a short assembly at 9.00am on Monday mornings where the students and teachers sing the National Anthem and are filled in on upcoming events for the week.

The second is on Friday afternoons at 3pm and is where student awards are presented.

Parents are welcome to come along to both assemblies.

SCHOOL DROP-OFF

We remind parents that students are not to arrive at school prior to 8.30am, as we are not able to meet our duty of care with regards to supervision prior to this time. We thank parents for respecting our school's operating hours.

SCHOOL PICK-UP

3.15pm can be very busy as the students head home after a day at school. To meet our duty of care we allocate a staff member to be on duty at the 'bus gate' on Langdon Street, another staff member to be on duty at the main entrance on Grant Street, and a third staff member to be on duty at the 'bike' gate near the large green tank on Grant Street.

To ensure that students are safe at this busy time, we ask that parents please meet their child on the school side of Grant Street at the main entrance when collecting their child, and then walk with them if needing to cross the road. Grant Street is very busy with lots of cars taking off and this will help to ensure that everyone gets home safely after school.

LUNCH ORDERS

Our school's lunch orders are provided by the Oasis Café in Elmore and lunch order day is Monday. Please see in today's newsletter a copy of the current Lunch Order Menu.

Also in today's newsletter is a request for parents to put their name down on the roster to collect the lunch orders from Elmore on a Monday. We are very appreciative of those who are able to help with this.

(Principal's Report continued over page).

Principal's Report Continued

2023 STAFF

I am excited to introduce our staff team for 2023. In particular, I welcome Kylie Brown and wish her every success in her role as P/1/2 classroom teacher!

Team Goornong PS 2023

- ◆ Jason Cox—Principal.
- ◆ Kylie Brown—Grade P/1/2 Teacher.
- ◆ Rebeckah Mirabito—Grade 3/4/5/6 Teacher.
- ◆ Naomi Grieves—Part-Time Teacher and Tutor.
- ◆ Tearnal Filbey—Education Support.
- ◆ Brooke Jones—Education Support.
- ◆ Karren Jackman—Education Support.
- ◆ Jacinta Deane—Business Manager.
- ◆ Felicity Johnson—Garden Science Program.
- ◆ Sue Gentry—MARC Library Teacher.
- ◆ Jenny Fu—LOTE (Chinese) Teacher.
- ◆ Anna Kemp—Performing Arts Teacher.
- ◆ Trudi Smith—After School Care Coordinator.
- ◆ Jordan Ridge—Cleaner.
- ◆ Ben Matthews—Groundskeeper.
- ◆ Jason Carty—Bus Driver.

SCHOOL TIMETABLE

To give parents some insight into what a typical day at Goornong PS looks like for the students, below is our usual timetable:

9.00am—11.00am:	Literacy Block.
11.00am—11.30am:	Recess.
11.30am-12.30pm:	Mathematics.
12.30pm-1.30pm:	Other Curriculum Subjects.
1.30pm—1.40pm:	Eat Lunch.
1.40pm—2.15pm:	Lunch Play.
2.15pm—3.15pm	Other Curriculum Subjects.

We also ask that parents please note the Specialist Subject days for each class:

Subject	Grade P-2	Grade 3-6
PE	Thursdays	
Art	Wednesdays	Mondays
Performing Arts	Thursdays	Thursdays
MARC Library	Every 2nd Friday	
Cooking	Fridays (even wks)	Fridays (odd wks)
Chinese	Tuesdays	

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

From time to time parents may have a question or concern regarding their child's time at school. We find that effective communication between home and school and vice versa ensures that we are all on the same page with regards to any issues relating to your child.

Whilst our school staff aim to be approachable, we do ask that parents be aware that in the morning prior to school is a busy time with teachers getting organised for the day ahead and listening to students read. As such, this is not always the best time for an effective conversation to take place. Similarly, immediately after school the teachers are on duty to ensure the safety of the students as they exit the school.

As such, we encourage parents to make an appointment to see their child's teacher or the school principal if they have a concern or have received a report from their child. This ensures our staff are able to allocate the time necessary for an effective conversation and we can work together to clarify the issue and work out a resolution.

SCHOOL FEES AND COLLECTION OF SUPPLIES

A big thank you to those parents and students who came into the school on Monday to collect the school supplies and pay a portion of the student contributions—your support with this is greatly appreciated!

BUSINESS MANAGER DAYS

Please note that our Business Manager, Jacinta, will be working every Tuesday and Wednesday this year. We encourage parents to contact the school on Jacinta's work days with any financial or administration queries as the reception desk is unattended on the other days.

Jason Cox

Principal

Mosquitoes



Schools have been asked to share the following information with their communities by the Education Department.

Recent wet and warm weather has increased mosquito breeding. Mosquitoes can carry diseases that may be passed on to people through mosquito bites. A range of mosquito-borne diseases have recently been detected in mosquitoes in northern Victoria. Mosquito-borne diseases can cause serious illness, including infections of the brain, with children particularly at risk.

The best way to prevent mosquito-borne diseases is to avoid mosquito bites.

In line with community health advice, families can protect against mosquito bites by:

- using insect repellent that contains picaridin or DEET on all exposed skin if outdoors when mosquitoes are observed, from October to March.
- wearing long, loose-fitting clothing outdoors if possible if mosquitoes are around and covering exposed skin as much as possible. Summer school uniforms, including polos and shorts, can continue to be worn, but students should use insect repellent on exposed skin if mosquitoes are active.
- limiting outdoor activity when mosquitoes are active.

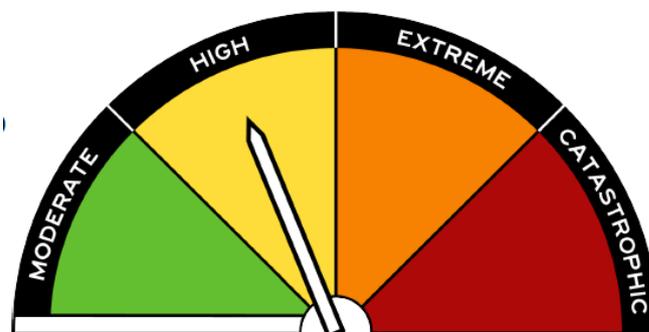
Further information

- A [handy guide](#) to help protect you and your family from mosquito-borne disease.
- Better Health Channel [information about preventing mosquito-borne diseases](#).

In line with Education Department guidelines, we have insect repellent available for students to use at school prior to heading outside. If you would prefer your child did not apply insect repellent, please let us know.

OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACE

Over the school holidays stage 2 of the Outdoor Learning Space project was completed. Whilst there are still a couple of jobs to be finished off, the space is essentially completed and the students have enjoyed spending lots of time there over the first week of school.



BUSHFIRE AT RISK REGISTER

We wish to inform our school community that our school is included on the Bushfire At Risk Register, as set by the Education Department, for the 2022-2023 Summer. This means that our school is required to close on days declared as Catastrophic in the Northern Country Bureau of Meteorology district.

Catastrophic days are announced by the Emergency Management Commissioner of Victoria, usually no later than 1.00pm on the day preceding the declared Catastrophic day. Once a Catastrophic day is announced, our school will notify all families that the school will be closed.

We again remind families to setup the UEducateUs App on their phone to ensure that they are receiving important information that may be communicated by the school.

HIGH FIVES



A few high fives to begin the school year.

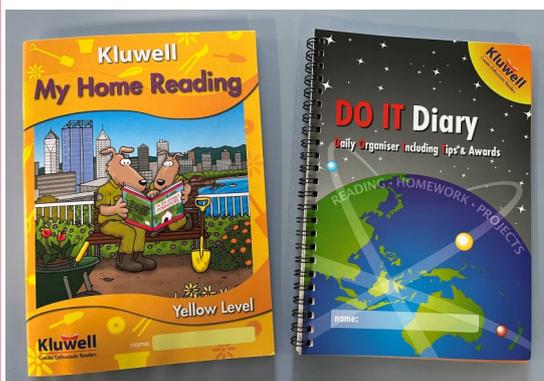
Firstly, to our groundskeeper Ben, who has put in a power of work over the school holidays to get the school looking neat and tidy ready for our return this week. Ben has also spent some time creating some new garden beds which have come up a treat—great job Ben!

Secondly, to Terri and Adam who volunteered their time to put together the furniture for the new Outdoor Learning Space. This was a massive help and ensured the furniture was ready for the students to use this week. Thanks heaps Terri and Adam!

READING AT HOME EXPECTATIONS



From next week, Gr 1-6 students will begin to bring home books (home readers). Grade Prep students will begin to bring home sound and/or sight word activities and beginner readers over the coming weeks. Research shows that children who are regular readers achieve higher Literacy outcomes than those who are not. To support your child's reading development, we ask that all students (including those in Grade 5-6) read aloud to an adult at home at least 4-5 times per week.



Each student has been given a Home Reading Diary and we ask that parents please fill this in and sign it each time their child reads at home. The diary should be filled in with the title of the text, the page numbers that were read and the signature of the parent or adult who listened to the child read.

This year we will be recognising those students who regularly read at home through awards presented at our Friday afternoon assembly.

Below are some tips for home reading with your child:

- ◆ Establish a routine for home reading—perhaps for 10-15 minutes before bedtime each night.
- ◆ Share the reading with your child. It helps a child's reading to hear a fluent adult read aloud. Perhaps take it in turns to read a page.
- ◆ Understanding what you've read is the goal of reading. Support your child to understand by;
 - * Looking at the cover and asking what they think the book is about.
 - * Discussing what is happening in the story.
 - * Asking questions about the story, such as "Why did the character act in that way?" or "What do you think will happen next?"
- ◆ Give children time to sound out a difficult word before giving them assistance.

For younger students who are just beginning to read:

- ◆ Get them to point to each word as they/you read it.
- ◆ Say the beginning sound to help prompt letter recognition.
- ◆ Talk about what is happening in the picture, use the pictures to figure out those tricky words.
- ◆ Children are very good at orally memorising stories or rhymes, so to encourage and build word knowledge, randomly point to sight words on each page such as *I, a, in, is*, to get students used to recognising words.

Most of all, have fun! Enjoy sharing books with your child and feel proud that you may just be creating a love of text for your child that will last their lifetime!

Can you help us with the Lunch Orders in Terms 1 & 2?

We are seeking expressions of interest from parents to volunteer to pick the lunch orders up from Elmore and deliver them to our school on Mondays. We are hoping that enough parents are able help out that we can continue with the roster system which we have had last year. The job would entail collecting the lunch orders from the Oasis Café in Elmore at approximately 1.10pm and delivering them to the school at 1.30pm.

Please return this form to the school by Friday 10th February if you are able to help out.

Yes, I am available to collect the lunch orders on a Monday.

Name: _____.

The school will endeavour to create a roster that 'shares the load' and try to avoid having anyone doing multiple trips in a term, if possible.

Please tick all the dates that you would be available.

Term 1		Term 2	
Available all dates in term 1.		Available all dates in term 2.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mon 13 th Feb	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mon 24 th April
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mon 20 th Feb	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mon 1 st May
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mon 27 th Feb	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mon 8 th May
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mon 6 th March	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mon 15 th May
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mon 13 th March (Labour Day)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mon 22 nd May
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mon 20 th March	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mon 19 th May
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mon 27 th March	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mon 5 th June
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mon 3 rd April	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mon 12 th June (Kings Birthday)
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Mon 19 th June



RSVP—Welcome Back to School BBQ & Fun Day

We invite all of our families and members of our school community to our '**Welcome Back to School BBQ**' at the Goornong Swimming Pool.

Sunday 19th February, 12noon—2pm.

Free Sausage Sizzle.

Drinks available for purchase from the pool kiosk.

Opportunity to meeting new teachers and new families.

Please join us for a fun afternoon.

There will be no entry cost for this event—thank you to the Goornong Pool Committee for this!

Yes, the _____ family will be attending the 'Welcome Back to School BBQ'.

Number of people attending _____.