

Goornong Primary School Newsletter

26 Grant St, PO Box 199, GOORNONG, VIC, 3557

Tel: 5432 2236

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

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Issue 05



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

Dates to Remember

Next Week

Wed 5th April	Cluster Cross Country, Elmore (P-6)
Thurs 6th April	Last day of Term 1, 2.15pm dismissal
Fri 7th April	Good Friday








Term 2

Mon 24th April	Student-Free Day
Tues 25th April	ANZAC Day
Wed 26th April	First day of Term 2 for students
Fri 28th April	MARC Library
Mon 1st May	Playgroup, 10.00am—11.30am
Wed 3rd May	School Photo Day
Fri 12th May	MARC Library
Sun 14th May	Mother's Day
Mon 15th May	School Council Meeting
Wed 17th May	Special Person's Morning, 9-11am
Wed 24th May	2024 Prep Parent Info Session, 5.30pm
Fri 26th May	MARC Library
Tues 30th May	Palmers Gym Excursion
Mon 5th June	Playgroup, 10.00am—11.30am
Tues 6th June	Palmers Gym Excursion
Fri 9th June	MARC Library
Mon 12th June	Public Holiday
Tues 13th June	Palmers Gym Excursion
Mon 19th June	School Council Meeting
Tues 20th June	Palmers Gym Excursion
Fri 23rd June	MARC Library
	Last day of Term 2, 2.15pm dismissal

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

Weekly Awards

Award	This Week	Last Week
P-2 Literacy 	Bryttney B	Robert S
P-2 Maths 	Patrick S	Darcie F
P-2 Values 	Mason D-F	Riley B
3-6 Literacy 	Ted C	Emilie
3-6 Maths 	Marli O	Olivia M
3-6 Values 	Lola A	Marli O
Principal Award 	Bryttney	Chase

FOTS News

What is FOTS?

"Friends of the School" (FOTS) is a fun, inclusive, welcoming group that fund raise and help organise events for the Goornong Primary school.

Many hands make light work, and as we have lost several of parents as their children have moved on to high school, we are looking for new members!

It is a great way to get involved and meet new people.

If you're interested in getting involved please let Jason or Jacinta know.

Mother's Day

The FOTS are arranging for a special gift for each student to give to their Mum for Mother's Day. We ask that each student please bring \$5 to school in a clearly named and labelled envelope by Friday 28th April. This is to cover the cost of the materials for the special gift. Thank you!

Goornong Primary School OSHClub



Goornong After School Care has a new name! We're now called Goornong Stay and Play. New name, same terrific service and programs! We would love to have more students coming along to join our Program. 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 OSH-Club* button.

What exciting things does the Purple Chest hold for our last week of term 1...?



Goornong Playgroup

The next session will be held on

Monday 1st May

at Goornong Primary School, from 10.00am—11.30am.

We invite all members of the Goornong community with young children to please come along and meet other people in the area who have young children.

Morning tea will be provided for both parents and children.

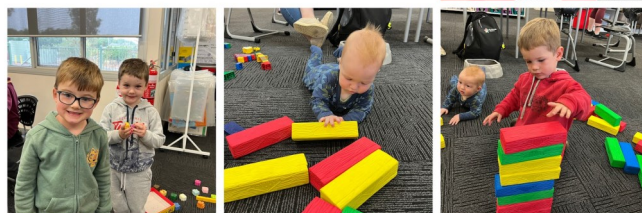
We hope to see you there!

Please contact school on 5432 2236 if you require any further details.

Term 2 Dates are:

Monday 1st May & Monday 5th June.

PLAYGROUP FUN



It was terrific to welcome Vinnie, Billy, Lucas, Ollie, Hamish, Joey and their families to the Goornong Playgroup session held this week.

Principal's Report

Today's is the last newsletter for Term 1. I wish all students, parents and staff a safe and enjoyable break over the Easter period.

THE WONDERFUL GOORNONG STAFF!

As Term 1 draws to a close, I wish to acknowledge the work of our wonderful teachers and education support staff, who have worked tirelessly to ensure a successful start to the 2023 school year. We are extremely lucky to have such an enthusiastic and dedicated team of professionals working at Goornong PS, who strive to make sure every day at school is a great day for every student. Well done to all Goornong staff for continuing to make our school such a positive environment for teaching and learning!

PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

A big thank you to the parents who were able to meet with their child's teacher last week for a parent-teacher interview. It is always a pleasure for the teachers to meet with parents and the conversations had are always valuable in building a strong partnership between home and school.

The next set of formal parent-teacher interviews take place in Term 3. However, parents are welcome to make an appointment to meet with their child's teacher at any time should they have any questions or concerns regarding their progress at school.

CLUSTER CROSS COUNTRY RUN DETAILS

A reminder that the Cluster Cross Country excursion to Elmore is this coming Wednesday 5th April.

On the day, students are split into three age groups according to their age at 31st December this year. Five, six and seven year olds will run a 1km course; eight, nine and ten year olds a 2km course; and 11 & 12 year olds a 3km course. The approximate program for the day is:

- 11.15am Depart Goornong PS on the bus.
- 12.15pm 5,6,7yo 1km Race.
- 12.50pm 8,9,10yo 2km Race.
- 1.40pm 11,12,13yo 3km Race.
- 2.30pm Depart for Goornong PS.

The Cluster Cross Country is always an enjoyable afternoon and we look forward to seeing many parents at the venue to cheer our students along.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Our school photo day is Wednesday 3rd May. This year we have engaged The Loft Studio to take our school

photos. Accompanying today's newsletter is the order form envelope. We ask that parents please return these to the school, along with the correct money, by Tuesday 2nd May. Please note that cash only is accepted for school photos.

School photo day is always a very special day in our calendar, with the photos taken on the day providing families with memories that can be passed on to future generations. In the past, our families have been very good at ensuring that students attend school in correct school uniform on photo day. Again, we ask for the support of parents with this to ensure that our photos are of the highest quality. In particular, I draw parents attention to the following points in our uniform policy:

- ◆ Stud earrings and sleepers worn in the ears, plus watches are the only acceptable jewellery.
- ◆ Other than clear nail polish, cosmetics may not be worn at school.
- ◆ The wearing of visible under-garments such as colourful long-sleeve shirts under a short-sleeve shirt or leggings/tights under shorts, skirts or dresses is not permitted, with the exception of those in the colours navy blue or maroon.
- ◆ Extreme hair colours (eg: green, pink or purple rinses) and/or extreme hairstyles are not permitted.
- ◆ Shoulder length hair or longer needs to be tied back.

Please feel free to come and see me if you have any questions regarding school photos.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

At the School Council AGM held last week the 2022 Annual Report was presented and office bearers were elected. A copy of the Annual Report will be available on the school website soon. I would like to introduce our School Council for 2023:

Rachel Mill, President

Ben Matthews, Vice-President

Terri James, Secretary

Jason Cox, Executive Officer & Treasurer

Jessica Nickson

Sarah Ormesher

Jacinta Deane

The next meeting of our School Council will be held on Monday 15th May.

(Principal's Report continued over page).

Principal's Report continued

MORNING READING

It's been terrific to see some parents coming into the classrooms in the morning to listen to the students read. The teachers and I really appreciate this support.

Morning reading happens between 8.30am—9.00am, so please feel free to come and help out if you are able. Please note that as per our school's Volunteer Policy, a Working with Children Check card is required for parents assisting at the school.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE SURVEY

Thank you to the families who completed the short online survey regarding the demand for after school care on days designated as student-free days. The survey is now closed.

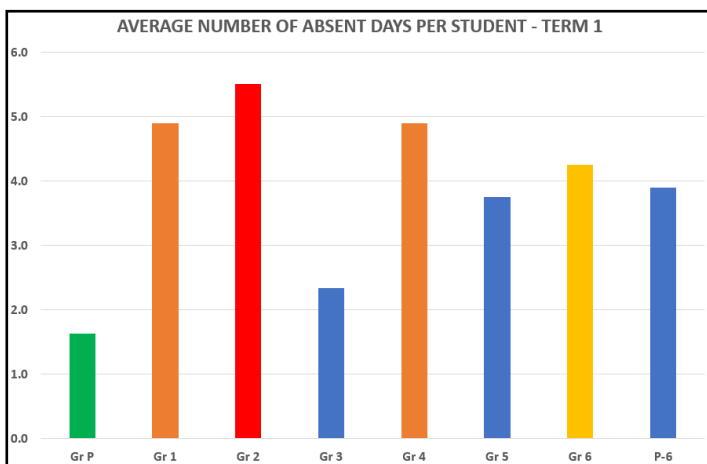
The results indicated that whilst there are a small number of families who would benefit from after school care on Student-Free Days, there wasn't significant demand. As such, at this stage it is not viable for OSHClub to run after school care on student-free days.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

As we are all well aware, consistent attendance at school is so important. Students who attend school regularly are maximising their opportunity to learn at the same rate as their peers. Conversely, students who are regularly absent are at risk of missing important learning content and falling behind their peers.

I wish to share with our school community some student attendance data as we near the end of Term 1.

As of 30.03.2023, there had been 42 days of school for the year. Congratulations to the Grade Preps who have the best attendance rate, with an average of just 1.6 days absent per student! As a whole-school, we are averaging just under 4 days absent per student. The graph below shows the attendance data for each grade level.



NOTIFYING THE SCHOOL WHEN A STUDENT IS ABSENT

It is Education Department Policy that schools notify parents on the day when a student is absent and the school has not been provided with a reason for the absence. As such, we ask that parents please notify the school in the morning if their child is going to be absent from school that day. Parents are able to notify the school of absences via uEducateUs, or by contacting the school by phone. Please be aware that the school is not able to accept verbal messages from siblings of absent students.

To ensure our school is meeting the requirements of the Education Department, each morning, our teachers mark the attendance roll for the day using the uEducateUs system. The system automatically generates a notification that is sent to parents where a student is marked as an unexplained absence.

We encourage parents to meet with their child's teacher if they are having attendance issues so we can work together to get your child to school each day.

I thank parents for their support with this.

Quote of the Week!

"Be miserable. Or motivate yourself. Whatever has to be done, it's always your choice."

- Wayne Dyer

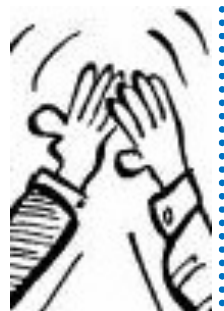
Jason Cox

Principal

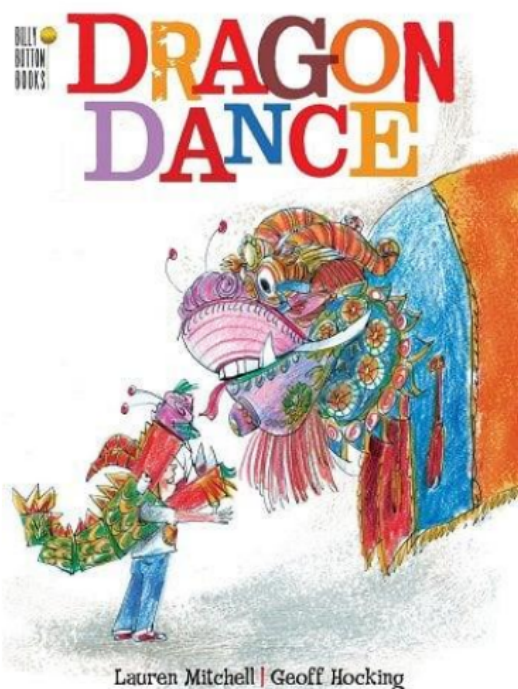
HIGH FIVES

This week we give a massive high five and pass on our sincere thanks to Fiona. Fiona has been looking after the chooks (feeding them, locking them up and refilling their water) on a daily basis for many years. We have really appreciated Fiona's dedication and commitment to this role (as have the chooks!). Unfortunately, Fiona is no longer able to do this important job and so finished up this week. Thanks again Fiona!

A big thank you to Melissa, Olivia and family who have kindly volunteered to look after the chooks during the upcoming school holiday period.



MARC Library News



Happy Holidays to everyone!

In the last MARC session of Term 1 we will be sharing the recently launched **Dragon Dance** by local Bendigo author Lauren Mitchell and illustrator Geoff Hocking.

This is a story of the 3 years that the Chinese Dragons couldn't be part of the Easter celebrations. How fabulous that we have a book written about our local experience of Covid (and then the weather!)

If you would like your own copy of Dragon Dance, pop into Bookish on Hargreaves St and chat the wonderful Wendy and Wendy 😊

Sunny and Nai Nai can't wait for their town's annual dragon parade. But when the loongs don't wake up, Sunny must find a way to save the family tradition.

Dragon Dance is a story of hope, resilience and creativity, and a celebration of the much-loved Chinese dragons on the Australian goldfields.

COLOUR RUN FUN



PROTECT



We wish to inform parents of important information related to the Child Safe Standards.

The Victorian Government has announced new Child Safe Standards to further strengthen child safety across organisations, including schools.

Goornong Primary School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. Goornong Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Every person involved in Goornong Primary School has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role they play individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

What are the Child Safe Standards?

The *Betrayal of Trust* report released by the Victorian Government identified that more can be done in the community to reduce and remove the risk of child abuse. As such, Ministerial Order 870 outlines a set of requirements (Child Safe Standards) that Victorian schools need to meet.

The Child Safe Standards are a set of principles that require organisations working with children to implement strategies to prevent child abuse.

Goornong Primary School has in place the following policies and documents which outline approaches to remove and/or reduce the risks of child abuse; and our commitment to providing a child-safe environment.

- ◆ Child Safety Policy.
- ◆ Child Safe Code of Conduct.
- ◆ Child Safe Reporting Obligations Policy.
- ◆ Child Safe Standards Risk Register.

Further information on the Child Safe Standards and the policies above are available on our school website at www.goornongps.vic.edu.au.

We thank our school community for their support in ensuring that Goornong PS maintains a child-safe environment for all students and children.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS

We wish to remind our school community, including parents, of our school's policy regarding working with Children Checks.

Goornong Primary School values the many volunteers that assist in our classrooms, with sports events, excursions, school concerts and other school events. To ensure that we are meeting our legal obligations under the *Worker Screening Act* and the *Child Safe Standards*, Goornong Primary School is required to undertake suitability checks which in most cases will involve asking for evidence of a Working with Children (WWC) Clearance.

As such, we ask that all parents have a valid WWCC card.

The process to apply for a Working with Children Check card is not arduous and the school is able to support parents if necessary. We strongly encourage parents who do not currently have a WWCC card to now begin the process of applying for one. Parents who do not hold a valid card will not be able to participate in school activities such as morning reading, attending excursions or volunteering at sports days.

Please feel free to contact the school if you require support or have any questions regarding Working with Children Checks.

We thank our school community for their support with this important matter!

Breakfast Club

A big thank you to Karren and Tearnna, who have done a terrific job running the Breakfast Club throughout Term 1. It's been so terrific to see the smiling faces and to hear the excited chatter amongst the 'Breakfast Clubbers' each Wednesday morning. Breakfast Club will continue in Term 2.



Lunch Order Roster Terms 1 & 2

A big thank you to the parents that have volunteered to help out with the lunch orders—we really appreciate it! Below is the roster for Terms 1 and 2. Please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions.

What to do:

The school rings through the orders to the Oasis Café in the morning. Parents do not need to make 2 trips to Elmore!

- 1) Pick up lunch order envelopes from the school prior to heading to Elmore.
- 2) Head to Oasis Café, drop off lunch order envelopes and pick up the food. Aim to do this about 1.10pm.
- 3) Deliver the lunch orders to the school ready for lunch at 1.30pm.

If you are unable to fulfil your allocated day, please attempt to arrange a swap with another parent, or let the school know ASAP so a replacement can be found. Thank you!

Term 1		Term 2	
Terri J	Mon 6th Feb	Jessica P	Mon 24 th April
Ruth S	Mon 13 th Feb	Shahn M	Mon 1 st May
Shahn M	Mon 20 th Feb	Merryn N	Mon 8 th May
Dot B	Mon 27 th Feb	Dot B	Mon 15 th May
Jessica P	Mon 6 th March	Terri J	Mon 22 nd May
Public Holiday	Mon 13 th March	Lauren L	Mon 19 th May
Lauren L	Mon 20 th March	Dot B	Mon 5 th June
Merryn N	Mon 27 th March	Public Holiday	Mon 12 th June
Terri J	Mon 3 rd April	Shahn M	Mon 19 th June

Community News

GET ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHER PROGRAM

Apply for up to \$200 to support your child
in sport and active recreation activities.

To be eligible your child must be:

- aged 0 to 18 years
- a resident in Victoria
- named on a valid Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card and Medicare Card.

Visit getactive.vic.gov.au

Round 6 of the Get Active Kids Voucher Program is now open! Victorian families with a Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card can apply for up to \$200 to support their child's sport and active recreation activities.

Find out more at www.getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers

Applications close Wednesday, 10 May 2023.