

Goornong Primary School Newsletter

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Friday 1st March, 2024

Issue 03



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

Dates to Remember

Next Week

Mon 4th March 9am: Gr 6 School Captain Speeches

Wed 6th Mar Preps first Wednesday at school.

Fri 8th Mar MARC Library

Term 1

Mon 11th Mar Public Holiday

Tues 12th Mar Parent-Teacher Interviews

Wed 13th Mar Parent-Teacher Interviews

13th—25th Mar NAPLAN Testing (Gr. 3 & 5)

Fri 15th March Gr 5-6 Camp Expression of Interest Due

Gr 3-4 Camp Expression of Interest Due

Mon 18th Mar School Council AGM & Meeting

Tues 19th Mar Parent-Teacher Interviews

Fri 22nd Mar MARC Library

Tues 26th Mar Smile Squad Visit

Thurs 28th Mar Last day of Term 1, 2.15 dismissal

Fri 29th Mar Good Friday

2024 Term Dates








Term 1: 30th January to 28th March

Term 2: 15th April to 28th June

Term 3: 15th July to 20th September

Term 4: 7th October to 20th December

Weekly Awards

Award	This Week	Last Week
P-2 Literacy 	Colin K	Ted A
P-2 Maths 	Archie O	Bill T
P-2 Values 	Lucas O	Lavina G
3-6 Literacy 	Mayla P	Patrick S
3-6 Maths 	Oliver S	Marli O
3-6 Values 	Marli O	Olivia M
Principal Award 	Isabelle P	Chase R

Baby Photo competition

Our competition is officially underway and our students have commenced writing down their guesses. Thank you to all the families who have brought in photos of their child.

This display has been a very exciting topic of discussion amongst our school over the past week or so.

Our winners will be announced next week.



Dear Parents,

We have had quite a few reports of unwell students over the past week or so. It appears there may be a 'bug' going around. Symptoms include sore throat, headache and runny nose. We thank parents for being mindful of others when considering sending their unwell child to school.

Principal's Report

PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent-Teacher Interviews are held twice a year, in March and again in July.

The first Parent-Teacher Interviews for 2024 will be held after school on the following dates:

Tues 12th March: Grade P-2 & Grade 3-6.

Wed 13th March: Grade P-2 & Grade 3-6.

Tues 19th March: Grade P-2 & Grade 3-6.

These are an opportunity for parents to meet with their child's teacher/s and discuss how their child is progressing socially, academically and behaviourally following the first few weeks of school. It is also an opportunity for parents to ask questions or raise any concerns they may have.

Bookings for Parent-Teacher Interviews are made via the uEducateUs System either on your mobile device or PC. Please see Jacinta at the school on a Tuesday or Wednesday if you need help with this. Bookings are now open and are able to be made up to 24 hours prior to the appointment time.

Please note that we have been advised that due to system maintenance, uEducateUs will not be available between 8pm Sat 2nd and 8pm Sun 3rd March.

Whilst it is not compulsory for students to attend the interview, we do encourage students in the Grade 3/4/5/6 class to be involved as this ensures that parents, students and teachers are all on the same page as to the learning goals of the student for the first semester.

NAPLAN ASSESSMENTS—GRADES THREE AND FIVE

In a couple of weeks time our Grade 3s and 5s will complete the NAPLAN tests. These tests are completed by all Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students across Australia. There are four tests which the students complete—Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy.

Individual student results from the NAPLAN tests are provided to the school later in the year and are available to parents.

As a school we are often asked by parents what they can do to ensure their child does well on the NAPLAN tests. The tests are designed to assess Literacy and Numeracy skills that students have developed over the course of their entire education. They assess a student's overall understanding of concepts which are built on throughout a child's schooling, thus cramming or completing extra study for the tests is not recommended.

Some tips to help your child do their best are:

- Encouraging your child to do the best they can.
- Reassuring your child that whilst it is important to do your best, the result of the tests will have no impact on their future opportunities.
- Ensuring your child gets a good night's sleep prior to the testing days.
- Ensuring your child eats a healthy dinner and breakfast prior to the testing days.
- Understanding that NAPLAN is not the be all and end

all—performance on NAPLAN has no impact on a person's success in life.

If you would like further information please feel free to come and see me. We wish all our Grade 3s and 5s good luck when completing the tests!

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL—EVERY DAY COUNTS

We're five weeks in to the school year and it's been terrific to see most students getting into the routine of regular attendance at school.

I wish to remind parents of the importance of regular and consistent attendance. Attendance patterns are established early—a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school creates habits which can be very difficult to break. As an example, a child missing one day every two weeks is the equivalent of missing 20 days a year! That's the equivalent of almost one year of schooling by the end of Grade 6!

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.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUP ELECTIONS

Each year our Grade 6 students are able to nominate for the position of School Captain. At Goornong PS we usually have a boy School Captain and a girl School Captain who are elected through a vote by their peers. This year, with three girls only in Grade 6, the students will be electing two girl school captains. The candidate not elected School Captain will be elected as vice-school captain.

This year's candidates will be presenting their speeches at a special assembly at 9.00am on Monday 4th March. Parents and family members are welcome to come along!

SOMERS CAMP

We had 4 Gr 5-6 students interested in the Education Department's Somers Camp. As discussed with these families, all students have been successful in gaining a place, and the new dates are Tuesday 30th April—Wednesday 8th May. Further details to come!

Principal's Report Continued

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

At the most recent School Council meeting held on Monday 19th February, a number of policies were reviewed and approved. These included:

- ◆ Student Engagement & Wellbeing Policy.
- ◆ Statement of Values & Philosophy.
- ◆ Duty of Care Policy.
- ◆ Health Care Needs Policy.
- ◆ Medication Administration Policy.
- ◆ Digital Learning Policy & Acceptable Use Agreement.

A copy of all policies is available on the school's website under the documents tab. As valuable partners in promoting and maintaining child safety and wellbeing at Goornong PS we welcome and encourage the feedback of parents. If you have any suggestions, comments or questions in relation to our policies, please contact me at the school.

Jason Cox
Principal

GRADE 6 RIDDLE:

Q: What can you catch but not throw?

GRADE 6 JOKES:

RIP boiling water...you will be mist.

Time fly's like an arrow...fruit flies like a banana.

GRADE 6 FACTS:

Donald Duck comics were banned from Finland because he doesn't wear pants.

In the future, somewhere around 2050, designer Joshua Harris believes we will be able to print out own clothes using his 3D clothing printer.

LEARNING & PLAYING AT SCHOOL





Six Month Fluoride Varnish

Families who were at our school last year may remember that Bendigo Health's Smile Squad visited in August to conduct dental checks on students where parents had provided consent.

The Bendigo Health Smile Squad team will be heading back to our school on Tuesday 26th March to complete six-monthly fluoride varnish applications for these students. Fluoride varnish applications help make sure students have the best chance of preventing tooth decay.

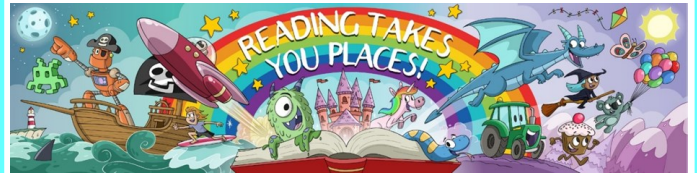
Consent for this fluoride varnish application was provided when students' initial consent forms were returned, back in August 2023. However, if you have changed your mind and do not wish for your child to receive a fluoride varnish application, please contact Bendigo Health directly to let them know. Please contact the Smile Squad team via:

0460 729 200

dental@bendigohealth.org.au

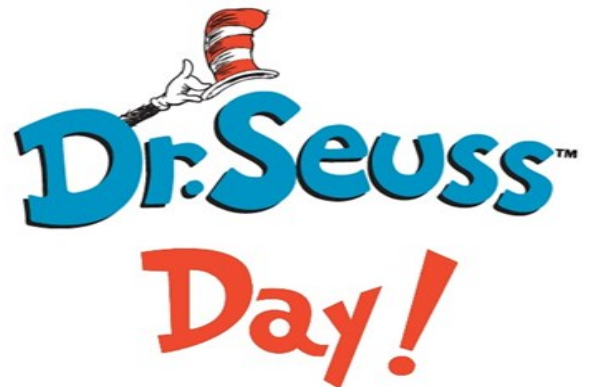
The Smile Squad team look forward to visiting soon.

MARC LIBRARY 2024



We will be celebrating Dr Seuss Day in all schools. The official day is March 2nd (Dr Seuss' birthday), and celebrates all the fabulous books he wrote in his lifetime. See if you can make a list of all the ones you know! (There are over 60)

Below are 10 characters from Dr Seuss books. Can you name them all?



1



2



3



4



5



DR. SEUSS CHARACTERS
NAME THE CHARACTER



6



7



8



9



10



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!

<u>Term 1</u>		<u>Term 2</u>	
<u>Terri J</u>	Mon 5 th Feb	<u>Jess P</u>	Mon 15 th April
<u>Ruth S</u>	Mon 12 th Feb	<u>Alyce O</u>	Mon 22 nd April
<u>Alisha R</u>	Mon 19 th Feb	<u>Merryn N</u>	Mon 29 nd April
<u>Dot/Roy B</u>	Mon 26 th Feb	<u>Dot/Roy B</u>	Mon 6 th May
<u>Amanda H</u>	Mon 4 th March	<u>Terri J</u>	Mon 13 th May
X	Mon 11 th March (Labour Day)	<u>Alisha R</u>	Mon 20 th May
<u>Alyce O</u>	Mon 18 th March	<u>Amanda H</u>	Mon 27 th May
<u>Merryn N</u>	Mon 25 th March	<u>Ruth S</u>	Mon 3 rd June
		X	Mon 10 th June (Kings Birthday)
		<u>Jess P</u>	Mon 17 th June
		<u>Alisha R</u>	Mon 24 th June