

NEWSLETTER

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Friday 4th February,
2022



Dear Families,

I'm so excited to welcome our students back to school. I must admit I was concerned that schools may be closed due to COVID-19 restrictions but thankfully the Department is focused on keeping school OPEN! On that note, I would like to list the measures we have in place to keep GDPS open for face to face learning.

- Staff and student rapid antigen testing twice per week.
- Air purifiers in classroom spaces
- Hand hygiene, mask wearing, ventilation, and social distancing
- Staff fully vaccinated (including Boosters by the end of February)



The GDPS community has demonstrated incredible solidarity and resilience throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Being back in our classrooms with extra health and safety measures is another big transition, but it's the very best one for our children's education. As we navigate these changes to onsite learning, including required mask wearing for some students, it's more important than ever that adults in our school community treat each other with respect and kindness.



The Department of Education and Training has released a [new policy](#) that describes the positive behaviour expected from parents, carers, and other adults in Victorian school communities. The policy sets clear standards of behaviour to create a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment for students, staff and adults.

There are also other resources to support safe and respectful relationships in our school community, including information about getting involved in the school, advice on how to raise a concern or complaint,

and parenting support resources. You can find the new policy and these resources [here](#).

Term 1	<u>WEEKS AHEAD</u>	Term 1	<u>WEEKS AHEAD</u>
Tues 8th Feb	School Welcome BBQ 5.30 –7pm	Wed 16th Feb	No Preps
Wed 9th Feb	No Preps	Wed 23rd Feb	No Preps

You may also see a [new poster](#) up around our school, promoting positive behaviour.

For more information on how to engage positively with our school, please contact me directly.

Family Welcome Barbeque

Hopefully, families have booked in next Tuesday, 8th February to join the staff at the annual Family Welcome Barbeque. This is a great way welcome new families and for returning families to reconnect. The evening will be a casual affair to ensure families and staff have the opportunity to mingle and chat and perhaps join in some fun lawn games.

We know as educators that the connections between home and school are crucial to the progress of our students' development; COVID-19 has really impacted on this occurring. GDPS has not given up, we are planning to both engage regularly with families and keep our community safe by following the COVIDsafe practices: activities being held outdoors, physical distancing, face masks if physical distancing is not possible, cough etiquette, and good hand hygiene. We have also planned for delicious food to be served, in a COVIDsafe manner. Families will be requested to check in via our school QR code check in system on arrival and show evidence of vaccination. If you are unable to check in due to not having a smart phone, there are 2 options.

1. Someone you are with can select 'add another' and check in for them, or
2. A staff member can check you in using this link: <https://www.service.vic.gov.au/business/kiosk-check-in>.

Please note that the COVID-19 requirements are a Department directive and schools have no choice but to apply them to remain open and COVIDsafe. This information can be found on DET website:

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/covid-19-vaccinations-visitors-volunteers/policy>



uEducateUs

Schools continue to get busier and busier, and I doubt the pace will slow in the near future. One way to ensure we operate efficiently but keep our primary focus on student progress and development is to improve our operating systems. This is why I need to prompt and encourage all families to use our GDPS uEducateUs platform.

If you haven't used the platform or lost your details, please send an email to gormandale.ps@education.vic.gov.au. Parents and guardians new to GDPS uEducateUs have a welcome letter attached to get you started.

Using this platform has proven to be an effective way of communicating and recording student data, in line with our Department identified school needs. I find as a parent, having the 'app' on my phone helps me to stay on top of the many school related communications and requirements for my own children.

Annual Privacy Reminder for 2022

GDPS collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#). Please take time to remind yourself of our school's collection notice, found on our website [Privacy Collection Notice](#). For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents](#).

GDPS School Strategic Plan (SSP)

As you know, GDPS completed the School Review process last year. A school review helps the school community to identify goals and targets to improve student outcomes in the school's next four-year School Strategic Plan. The GDPS goals for the next four year cycle are listed below.

Goal 1:

Improve reading learning growth for all students.

Goal 2:

Improve numeracy learning growth for all students.

Goal 3:

Improve engagement in learning for all students.



GDPS Vision

GDPS is committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all students, staff and members of our community. Our school recognises the importance of the partnership between our school and parents and carers to support student learning, engagement and wellbeing. During our School Review we strategically reviewed our school vision to ensure it was aligned with the new strategic plan and encapsulated the uniqueness of our school. It is important to get your input regarding the vision as we know we will achieve more for our students when our community is aligned.

Please see the draft vision that staff have developed and provide your feedback via email directly to me leanne.sinnadurai@education.vic.gov.au. You will also have the opportunity to provide feedback at the Family Welcome Barbeque on Tuesday.

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



Get Active at GDPS

Children spend about half of their waking hours at school. It is critical that schools support and encourage children and young people to move more and sit less throughout the day – before, during and after school. There is a wealth of evidence supporting the role that schools can play in promoting physical activity and the health of students. Benefits of being active at school include

improvements in: classroom behaviour, brain function, concentration, learning outcomes, motivation, social interactions, physical health, and emotional and psychological well-being. This year, the Yr 6 students will facilitate tabloid sports every Tuesday during the afternoon session; the aim is to build on their knowledge and apply their new leadership skills each week. Teams made up of multi-age students will be led by the Yr5 students to participate in the various sports. The Get Active at GDPS program is expected to also prepare students for the GDPS Athletics Carnival to be held on Wednesday 9th March.

Lunch Orders

As Parent Club regather and reorganise for 2022 we have put lunch orders on hold for the new couple of weeks. If you have some spare time and would like to be a part of the Parent Club in any capacity please contact the Parent Club President, Ellen Sykes, or email the school at gormandale.ps@education.vic.gov.au.



Breakfast Club

This year, our Yr 6 students will take responsibility for organising the Breakfast Club. Breakfast will be available each morning from 8:40am near the undercover area. Students can enjoy a healthy breakfast or snack before they head into class. Thank you to Yr6 for your support; in particular Natalie and Breeannah.

GDPS Newsletter

GDPS provides the school newsletter in digital form (via uEducateUs & GDPS website) and hardcopy printed form. The preference for the school is to distribute the GDPS Newsletter in digital form as it allows us to use our resources in other ways - most importantly in the classroom. However, we do understand that some families prefer the printed hardcopy. If you would like to be provided with a printed copy of the GDPS

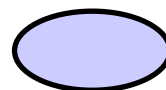
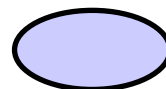
Please update and return ASAP:

I can access the newsletter on uEducateUs or the website and do not require a paper copy.

I would like a paper copy of the newsletter this year

Family Name.....Date.....

Please tick



Victoria's Back-to-School Plan

What's new:



Free rapid antigen testing

- more than 14 million rapid antigen tests to be delivered to schools and early childhood education and care settings
- twice-weekly voluntary testing at home
 - primary school students and staff
 - secondary school students and staff
- five-times-weekly voluntary testing at home
 - specialist school students and staff



Enhanced support to keep schools open and safe

- extra staff ready to step in where essential school staff are unable to work
- updated procedures and notifications to families when there are COVID-19 cases
- extra planning and support for school leadership



Keeping schools open and as safe as possible

- remote learning only considered as a localised, short-term, last-resort option

Continued COVIDSafe measures: the 3Vs



Vaccination

- staff required to be vaccinated or medically exempt
- more than 90% of children age 12 and over are now vaccinated
- roll-out of vaccinations for children aged 5 to 11 through state vaccination hubs, pop-up school vaccination sites and in-reach grants



Ventilation

- delivery of \$1,000 air purifiers to schools before day one of Term 1



Vital COVIDSafe steps

- physical distancing
- face masks
- regular hand hygiene
- testing

Dear _____

You are invited to our

FAMILY BARBEQUE TEA

WHEN: February 8th

TIME: 5:30 – 7:00

WHERE: Gormandale and District Primary
School

*Please join us for some lawn
games, a catch-up and loaded
sausage and hamburgers for tea.*

*Please RSVP by Monday for
catering purposes*



GORMANDALE KINDERGARTEN NEWS -

Uniting

...to inspire people, enliven communities
and confront injustice.



FEBRUARY 2nd 2022

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2022 kinder year! Thank-you to our new and returning families for attending our Enrolment Interviews today. It was good to see lots of familiar faces and new one's too. We are looking forward to commencing our Kinder sessions tomorrow (Thursday 3rd February) and others will commence next week on Tuesday 8th February.

This year we have embraced a change of staff at the service. Sadly, we said goodbye to our long term Assistant – Jo Kiehn. Jo has taken on a new role at a kinder closer to home and has been replaced by Dorrie Sullivan. We have also welcomed Racheal Johnson to our team as an Additional Assistant.

Being involved in the Gormandale Community is of great importance to us and this year we aim to create greater connections with the Gormandale and District PS. We are very fortunate to have the expertise and wonderful support of the school staff. This year we will be implementing a Preschool Phonics program at the kinder with the guidance and support of Prep/1 Teacher – Miss Williams. We also plan to utilise the school resources and have planned Library borrowing for the children on a fortnightly basis.

I look forward to adding little snippets of news into the school newsletter each week.

ENROLMENTS

We still have some vacancies in our 3 and 4 year old kinder group. If you know of anyone requiring a kinder place that is yet to enrol please encourage them to pop into the kinder or alternatively call us on 51977480 or email: Gormandale.els@vt.uniting.org

Happy New Year



During our specialist language session Sharon taught us about the Chinese New Year. We got to learn how to use chop sticks and practise our fine motor skills.

Happy New Year



Visual Art/Whole School Focus: Miss Coulthard

This week in visual art the whole school created self-portraits to place in their passports. Students will use these passports as they “travel” the globe in visual art. They will develop their knowledge on different countries and cultures. Students will then be inspired to create a piece of art from this country, developing techniques and knowledge on art elements.

Can you guess who these self-portraits are?



Health:

Grade Prep/One:

This week in health we built on social skills. Students completed a friendship scavenger hunt. This allowed all students to engage with all peers within the classroom.



Grade 5/6:

Grade five, six students developed their knowledge on how food and physical activities can support our bodies. Students set short, medium and long-term goals that they are focusing on achieving within the year.

Did you know? When you exercise, you are helping to build a strong body that will be able to move around and do all the stuff you need to do. If you do a little bit of exercise or moving every day, it helps your body grow and become much stronger.



FROM THE CLASSROOMS



Prep/One—Miss Williams

This week in P/1 we have been off to a roaring start! Our preps have been learning about some prewriting lines—'tall man' and 'side ways'. These will help us when we start to write letters in a few weeks. The grade 1's have been revisiting the letter formations they learnt last year. We are loving trying our learning in different spaces.



Two/Three/Four—Mrs Judkins

Grade 2/3/4's have all made a fantastic start to the year! Everyone is happy and enthusiastic to be back in the classroom with their mates. We look forward to a productive first term!

Five/Six—Miss Darby

Everyone has settled in wonderfully! We have spent the week practising routines and discussing our school values and expectations. The students have had opportunities to work together in different groups, building on collaboration and social skills.

I look forward to a fantastic year with this lovely bunch of students!



Student Diaries Coming Soon

All students will be receiving a newly designed GDPS student diary that will contain all of the information below and more to support students and families during the year to stay connected with the school—we know that it is important that school and home have strong communication lines.



Term 1 2022 Information

- Family welcome BBQ 8th February
- Whole school athletics carnival 9th March
- School Assemblies every Friday at 2.30pm
- Newsletter every Friday instead of Tuesday
- Marc van—now Monday afternoons
- Preps rest day each Wednesday from 2nd Feb 2022 to 9th March 2022
- Bookclub will continue in 2022 more information will come early in the year. The first catalogues went home today and are due back 16th February.
- Hot lunches will begin week 4 (Always seeking new helpers, please contact us if you can spare some time)
- Breakfast will continue in 2022
- Hats must be worn in Term 1. If families could supply sunscreen we are more than happy to remind the students to apply
- Swimming lessons Week 8 (22nd, 23rd, 24th March) and Week 9 (29th, 30th 31st March)

