



Governor Philip King Public School

Striving for Personal Excellence

Week 5 Term 1
23 February 2021

From the Principal ...

Welcome to Week 5, where we have well and truly settled into our 27 new classes and a new year of learning.

It has been amazing to see how quickly our students connected with their 2021 teachers and engaged in new learning. Our teachers have been busily completing assessments and initial activities to ensure they get to know all of their new class members. Classrooms are buzzing along extremely well and students have been enjoying the challenge of new and exciting work. The huge amount of time staff put in at the end of 2020 to create the new classes for this year has certainly paid off.

Even though our Kindergarten students have been here for a few weeks now, I can officially welcome them all to the Governor family. Our 93 students are very confident and are demonstrating how much they are enjoying being at school and engaged in learning. Thank you to our new kindergarten parents for assisting in us in the procedures for morning drop-off and afternoon collection of students. It has been a positive start to school for our newest and youngest students.

I would like to stress the importance of all children attending school every day and on time. The start of a new school year is a great time to establish good habits and routines that will set children up for a successful year of learning at school. School starts at 8:50am and children commence learning straight away. When children are late, it not only disrupts their own learning, but also that of their classmates as teachers need to stop and re-explain tasks or instructions. We understand there will be times that children are unable to come to school, or may arrive late on the rare occasion. We ask that these be kept to the minimum. Please communicate with the school either by letter, email, or phone, if your child is away or if absences will be ongoing. School attendance for school age children is compulsory and a legal requirement for all parents and guardians. However, please remember that at the moment students must not come to school if they are unwell. Even with very mild symptoms. If they develop flu like symptoms they will require a negative COVID-19 test before returning to school.

Congratulations to our Parliamentarians who were recently involved in our Parliament Training Day. This is always a great opportunity for our newly elected students to develop skills which will assist them throughout the year as leaders. We were also able to present these students with their official uniform which they will wear for all Parliament sessions, assemblies and special occasions. Thank you to Ms. Stojanoska for working so hard to organise the uniforms and having them arrive so quickly for our students.

Our new outdoor learning space is finished and in use. The new gazebo area looks amazing and our students are enjoying the extra space during recess and lunch. This space is also being utilised by teachers during the day as an extra space to enjoy learning outside of the classroom environment. We are currently running a competition for our students to name this new space. Stay tuned...



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Newsletter

Over the coming weeks we will be practicing our 'Lockdown' and 'Evacuation' procedures. These are requirements to ensure, in the event of a real emergency, our staff and students know exactly what to do. When we have an emergency drill we will send out a Skoolbag alert so our community know the drill has taken place. This will also ensure there are no 'Urban Myths' about a real emergency situation at Governor.

Congratulations to 4LF who accepted my challenge and were amazingly successful. Last week the students were learning about a block planner for their writing. I was impressed with how quickly the students could draw the planner on their whiteboards. They assured me if I came back last Friday they could do it in 1 minute and 30 seconds. By Friday most of the class were able to draw up the block planner in under 1 minute, with the entire class finished well under the challenge time! Well done to these superstars, the paddle pops on Monday were well deserved and enjoyed!!



Stage 3 will be starting their fundraising efforts this week. On Friday every student will receive a note and a book of raffle tickets for our annual Easter raffle. We are asking for donations of good quality eggs and chocolates to create the prizes for the lucky raffle winners. We look forward to a successful fundraiser for our Stage 3 students.

We have a number of additional projects that will start to take place over the coming terms.

One of our projects involves the following hint...



Mr Jason Corcoran
Principal

Deputy Principal's Message ...

It seems crazy that at the conclusion of this week we will be half way through Term 1. It has been wonderful to see how well our youngest students have commenced their school journey. A big thank you to all of our community, especially our new parents and carers for making the start of the school year a smooth one. There are some challenges still with Covid-19, but GPK has demonstrated by working together we are very effective in dealing with them.

Unfortunately, with the inclement weather, last Friday our PSSA teams didn't get to kick off their season. Fingers crossed the weather will be kind and Round 2 can go ahead. A reminder that under Horsley Zone PSSA guidelines due to Covid-19 restrictions that there are no parent spectators in Term 1. Please ensure, for those students who train in the morning, that they meet their coaches at the front gates at 7:55am. It is really important that younger siblings are not dropped off with their brother/s or sister/s who are training. PSSA coaches are training their teams and aren't in a position to supervise other students.



AFL TRAINING

In 2021 our student leaders have initiated a new concept of interviewing staff members. Throughout the year our parliamentarians will be asking teachers questions that will allow our community to get to know them better. The interviews will be a mixture of questions about teaching and them. This week Mr Corcoran, was interviewed. Want to know his biggest fear? Check out the GPK Facebook page to get the answer.

Tomorrow our competitive swimmers will be attending Prairewood Leisure Centre endeavouring to qualify at the Horsley Zone PSSA Swimming Championship. Good luck to all of you. Thank you to Miss Vukovich for her organisation.

Parliament are running a competition to name our fantastic Gazebo. Students are encouraged to come up with a name based on a GPK Theme. Students who are interested should speak to their teacher. Parliament will judge the entries.



We have students who ride their bikes to school. GPK wants to ensure that their well-being is at the forefront. Parents it is a condition that if students ride a bike or scooter to school, they **MUST** wear a helmet.



Bicycle riders are required by law to wear an approved helmet securely fitted and fastened. In NSW there are no exemptions from wearing an approved bicycle helmet. Research conducted by the University of NSW in 2016 involving 64,000 injured cyclists found helmet use was associated with about a 50 per cent reduction in head injuries of any severity, about a 70 per cent reduction in serious head injuries and 65 per cent reduction in fatal head injuries. A bicycle helmet that is not correctly fitted and fastened does not provide enough protection in a crash.

Arriving on time is really important for our students as important information is given to them first thing in the morning. This is followed by the class's morning routine which is vital consolidation of what is being taught. It is crucial that children establish good routines and habits in preparation for the rest of their lives. Punctuality is a life skill that they need to develop whilst they are young.

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS....

When your child misses just...	that equals...	which is...	and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is...
10 minutes a day	50 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 1½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ a year of school
20 minutes a day	1 hour and 40 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 2½ weeks per year	Nearly a year of school
½ hour a day	½ a day of learning a week	4 weeks a year	Nearly 1 ½ years of learning
1 hour each day	1 whole day of learning each week	8 weeks per year or nearly a term a year.	Over 2 ½ years of learning

Your child's best learning time is at the beginning of the day...

Check the time your school starts. DON'T BE LATE!



Have a great week!

Glenn Hamilton
Deputy Principal

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