



# Governor Philip King Public School

Striving for Personal Excellence

Week 8 Term 1  
17 March 2021

## *From the Principal ...*

Welcome to Week 8.

Over the last week a small group of parents have been vocal in portraying us as a school who are trying to 'disconnect' from our community. **Nothing could be further from the truth** - we highly value and appreciate our community and I would have hoped that the last 12 months demonstrated how much we have done to support and nurture the links we have with all members of the Governor family. We are trying to ensure our students remain connected to their friends and peers while maintaining the independence and confidence we have all seen since the beginning of the school year. We continue to investigate ways we can include our community where possible.

We are attempting to keep moving forward under difficult circumstances and in what are still uncertain times. At no point have we stopped parents from coming on site, however, I do have a duty of care for our 615 students, over 70 staff and the wider community. We have simply asked you to support the continuing growth and independence of our students, with a large majority of the community extremely happy with the procedures that were in place. Many parents have openly supported the idea of the safety and well-being of students and the highly organised way the start and end of the school day has worked at our school.

Yesterday the Senior Executive Team spent hours re-working plans and cross-checking COVID regulations in an attempt to have parents on site for some of our major upcoming events, including the Easter Hat Parade. However, this was not a simple or easy feat given the requirements and restrictions from NSW Health and the Department of Education. It is not simply a matter of having all parents on site at the one time. Across K-2 we have 270 students; with 2 adults attending per child we would need an area of 1080 square metres for visiting adults, this is without then ensuring the additional space for students and staff. **However, we did come up with a workable plan which involves holding the parade in Grades rather than as a K-2 event.** At all points of discussions and planning we attempt to put the students and community of Governor at the forefront of our thinking.

Please remember that COVID guidelines and restrictions can change very quickly, often after school plans, protocols and preparation have been put in place. Logistically, this makes the job of the Senior Executive Team difficult at times.

We are doing our absolute best under difficult and uncertain times. My Senior Executive Team spend hours trying to map out events and procedures; all the while successfully running a school and focusing on the core business of teaching and learning for our students. Some of our events are planned weeks in advance.

In terms of the poll parents are being asked to contribute to, I would like to pre-empt any discussion that I am trying to 'disconnect' the community. The idea of a Community Forum means parents can have greater involvement in learning about our school, at a time that can be beneficial to everyone and via a medium that the community can access from home. In 2020 our 'Bounce Forward' survey provided so many positives for our school, which I believe the majority of our community still agree with, including our decisions and protocols for staff, students and the community. I would hate for the hard work and effort from everyone over the last 12 months to be discarded. As a community we work together for our students and for the amazing school they attend each day.

I take to heart the decisions I make each and every day. I never make a decision without trying to think through the benefits for every stake holder of our school. There are times, particularly over the last 12 months, that I have put the needs and plans for Governor above those of even my own children and family. Being the Principal of Governor means all of the responsibility sits on my shoulders, and I take that responsibility seriously. If you disagree with decisions, I am more than happy to resolve those issues where possible. I am happy to be questioned; that comes with the job. My only ask is that it doesn't become a personal attack or smear and gossip campaign outside of the school gates. My commitment, dedication and investment for staff, students and the community is one thing I will happily, confidently and strongly defend. I pride myself on being an active staff and community member, a leading learner within my school, being approachable and most of all the **Proud Principal of Governor**.

I look forward to continuing the amazing things we do for our students every day, including the way we deliver teaching and learning across our school, the provision of all of the additional extracurricular activities we have on offer and the outstanding team of teachers and educators we are lucky enough to have here at Governor. I thank the community for their on-going understanding, encouragement and positive words of support.

Mr Jason Corcoran  
Principal

### *Deputy Principal's Message ...*

I cannot believe that it is Week Eight already. Term One is certainly moving along quickly. There are many exciting things to look forward to here at GPK in the next few weeks.

This week, we see our Kindergarten parents meeting with teachers to discuss their child's Best Start Assessment. Teachers will be providing parents with information on where their child started at in Kindergarten. They will also provide parents with valuable information on how they can help their child to progress in their first year of schooling.

Thank you to Mrs Drca, Mrs Hoyek and Mrs Veloso for ensuring that the 'Little GPK' initiative goes ahead each week. Our Stage 1 students have been learning athletics skills in preparation for the upcoming Athletics Carnival.



The 2-6 Athletics Carnival is only 2 weeks away (**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**). This is always a great day for everyone involved. Students are encouraged to wear their house colours or their sports uniform. (**GO ALEXANDER!!!**) If your child has purchased a sausage sizzle, they will only need to bring recess and plenty of water with them. Please note: there will be no canteen facilities on site.

Tomorrow, our School Parliament is holding a fundraiser for the Westmead Children's Hospital. Students are encouraged to dress up as their favourite superhero or wear mufti, and bring in a gold coin as a donation.

I am pleased to announce that we have opened up our school Library again during recess for students to use. They are encouraged to use this space if they have some research to complete, if they would like to read a book or if they need help with their homework. Each day, a teacher is allocated to the Library as a duty to assist students with any queries.

We are very fortunate to have subscriptions to Reading Eggs (K-2), Scholastic Literacy Pro (3-6) and Mathletics (K-6). Please encourage your child to utilise these programs as they reinforce concepts that have been taught in class. If your child has lost their username and password, you can contact their teacher.

On Thursday, our Parliamentarians and Class Representatives will be inducted into Parliament. This is a very important ceremony for our students. We look forward to welcoming parents onsite for this special occasion. Our School Parliament plays an important part in student inspired initiatives at GPK. We look forward to seeing these initiatives over the year.

Have a great week and good luck to all of our PSSA students on Friday.

Ms Stojanoska  
Relieving Deputy Principal

## Literacy Pro - Years 3 - 6

Your child is using Scholastic Literacy Pro to support his/her independent reading. One of the greatest gifts we can give children is to instil a love of reading. It is not enough to simply teach children to read. We need to provide them with a variety of literature that will make them wonder, make them laugh and take them to other worlds.

At school, the students sit their Literacy Pro Test - this provides them with their Lexile level. The Lexile level helps them find the right books when browsing the Library and choosing books they want to read.

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1. [www.scholasticlearningzone.com](http://www.scholasticlearningzone.com)
2. Choose
3. Org ID:
4. Enter student username and password

## Swimming Carnival Report

On Wednesday 24th February, GPK had their swimming carnival at Prairiewood Leisure Centre. There were a number of students across Years 3-6 who participated in the races. The early morning rain couldn't stop our students from racing with determination and excitement.

All students who swam received points for their sports house. The house points were:

- 1st - Scarborough
- 2nd - Alexander
- 3rd - Supply
- 4th - Sirius

A big thank you to Miss Skoric, Miss Fitton, Ms Stojanoska, Ms McMahon, Miss Talwar, Mr Hamilton, Mr O'Neill & Mr Hoyle for helping out throughout the carnival! Thank you also to Mr Corcoran & Mr Samuel for coming to show their support.

We were also lucky enough to have 7 students qualify for the Horsley Zone Swimming Carnival and represent GPK, which was held on Tuesday 2nd March. The following students swam in the Zone Carnival.



4AH	Paige	Brgudac
4LF	Amina	Hakkaoui
4KV	James	Bablanian
5SC	Danica	Isailovic
5SC	Savannah	Laysoulivong
5SC	Stephanie	Sulaiman
6IE	Denita	Yonan



Well done to all students involved. You showed great sportsmanship throughout the day & you should be very proud of yourself.

Congratulations to Danica Isailovic, Stephanie Sulaiman, Amina Hakkaoui and Paige Brgudac who went on to represent Horsley Zone at the Sydney South West Carnival.



Miss Vukovich  
Swimming Coordinator

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## Harmony Day 2021 – Everyone Belongs

**Date: Monday, 22nd of March, 2021 Term 1, Week 9.**

**Harmony Day** is a celebration of Australia's cultural diversity. In 2021, the Harmony Day theme is '**Everyone Belongs**'.

It recognises the important role and positive influence that cultural diversity has in our multicultural nation.

Harmony Day is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home, from our traditional owners to those who've come from many countries around the world. By participating in Harmony Day activities, we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and make it a better place.

**GPKPS** will be making a special effort to recognise Harmony Day on **Monday, 22nd of March, 2021**. As the official Harmony Day colour is **orange**, students are encouraged to wear something orange on this day, to show their support for the idea of living in harmony. This will be a **muffi day for all students, but no money is required.**





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