



Governor Philip King Public School

Striving for Personal Excellence

Week 3 Term 4
25 October 2022

From the Principal ...

Welcome to Week 3 where hopefully the weather will warm up and we may have a few days without rain!

It was with great sadness that I had to share the news of Brooklyn's passing last week. It has been a difficult week for staff and students dealing with the loss of such an amazing, brave and valued member of our school. The staff and students have been supported by Counsellors and Department Personnel. This will continue for the coming weeks. As a Principal there are days and times that are tough, however, last Monday was probably the toughest of my career. Addressing the staff on Monday morning before school, then classes throughout the day was probably the worst day I have experienced. I definitely went home and gave my own 4 children an extra hug and spent time talking about how proud I am of each of them. At a school level, it was wonderful to be able to share our thoughts about this heroic little boy who we all miss terribly. Thank you to everyone who took the time to check in on our staff and pass on their thoughts and condolences for the family. I sent flowers to Brooklyn's family on behalf of our entire school community. We are asking that next week, on the day of Brooklyn's service (date to be advised), that all of our students and staff wear a brightly coloured t-shirt in honour of Brooklyn and to help us all celebrate the life of this extraordinary young boy. We will provide more information in the coming days.

This week some of our students across Years 2 - 6 are participating in the Special Swimming Scheme. Learning to swim is such an important skill for children. Knowing how to swim provides assurance that students are safe around water and are able to confidently participate in water sports, whether swimming at the beach or in a backyard pool. I would ask all parents to genuinely consider swimming lessons for all students. It's a skill that could one day save their life.

I am thrilled to be able to let our community know that in 2023 Governor Philip King will have a Support Unit established at our school. At the start of next year, we will have 2 Support Classes commence, with a third class in 2024. These classes will be specifically for students with autism or mild-moderate intellectual disabilities. Students who attend Support Classes are selected through a formal panel process run by the Department of Education. Our Support Unit will be staffed by an Assistant Principal, 2 classroom teachers and 3 SLSO's. These positions are currently being advertised. I will look forward to sharing the news about our additional staff members once the processes are complete. We are very excited to be welcoming these new students and staff to our school in 2023.

Jason Corcoran
Principal

Deputy Principal's Message ...

Welcome back teachers, students and to the GPK community. I can't believe it is Term Four already! I'm sure this term will be just as busy as the last three and Christmas will be here before we know it.....actually, only 60 days to go!

Next week, Kindergarten Orientation will commence and will continue in Week Five of this term. We will welcome approximately 60 children and their families to our school. The children will participate in a variety of activities, such as colouring in, cutting, craft, singing, dancing, developmental play, listening to a story and enjoying morning tea, with our current Kindergarten teachers.



Although there may be some tears, I'm sure the children will enjoy their time and we look forward to getting to know them and their families in 2023. If your child is attending Kindergarten Orientation, please ensure that you have contacted the office or myself by Wednesday 26th October. Thank you to the families who have already informed the school that their child is attending the sessions.

We were fortunate to secure a four week skipping program for our Kindergarten and Year One students. The program commenced in Week One on Thursday and will continue until Thursday in Week Four. During the sessions, students are learning various skipping skills by a trained coach. The sessions provide our students with fundamental movement development and they appear to be enjoying the sessions. Thank you to Mrs Kumar who organised this program for our younger students.



On Wednesday, our youngest students went on their first excursion to the Calmsley Hill City Farm. Due to Covid restrictions, we were unable to attend this excursion over the last two years so the teachers were very excited and the weather was perfect! Kindergarten enjoyed seeing the animals, watching the sheep shearing and the dog show, riding on the tractor and having a turn at cracking a whip. They were allowed to pat some animals and each student had the opportunity to milk a cow. Thank you, Miss Wallekers for organising such a valuable experience for our Kindergarten students.



Unfortunately, the Gala Day which was scheduled for Friday 21st October was cancelled due to wet weather. We are hoping for sunny weather in the coming weeks so our students have the opportunity to participate in the next Gala Day on Friday 11th November (Week 5).

Don't forget to return your Information about your Child for 2023 note and your Intention to Return to GPK in 2023. These notes were sent home in Week One and are due back Friday 4th November which is next week. Thank you to all of the families who have already returned these notes. Please send this note to the office as soon as possible so we include your child in class structures for next year.

This Friday, we are celebrating World Teachers' Day. We have some special things planned for our staff to recognise the amazing work they do here at Governor every day. On behalf of the students and community we say a huge thank you to each of our staff members for the wonderful things they do and provide for our students and school.





Our school will be celebrating Grandparents' Day next week on Wednesday 2nd November. Grandparents are welcome to attend open classrooms from 10:00am until 11:00am. They are also welcome to have recess with their grandchild/grandchildren from 11:00am - 11:30am. Entry to the school will be available through the Allambie Road entry/exit gate. We are looking forward to welcoming grandparents into our amazing school.

Don't forget to come dressed in your favourite scary costume on Monday 31st October to celebrate Halloween. There is no cost for this day.

Good luck to all of students who are participating in the Cowpasture Network Public Speaking Finals on Wednesday 26th October. Enjoy the third week of Term 4!

Mrs Heidi Hosking
Deputy Principal

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