

GORDON WEST BULLETIN

VOLUME 1 2021

FEBRUARY 4 2021



Principal's Report

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Welcome back to what we anticipate will be another great year at Gordon West.

I hope that your vacation was enjoyable and that you are looking forward to returning to Gordon West for 2021.

COVID-19 certainly impacted on the holiday plans of many members of the Gordon West school community including Julia and I. Instead of holidaying in Queensland as planned we engaged in a great deal of bike riding in Sydney, Wollongong and the Central Coast in addition to partaking in a number of bushwalks and visiting numerous restaurants.

Overall we had a great holiday. Incidentally many people must have had to make similar changes to holiday plans because we ran into a number of Gordon West families over the holidays.

COVID-19 remains an enormous challenge for 2021 but we remain very confident that

with everyone working together we can meet all of the challenges that arise. A big thank you to Mrs Harvey Assistant Principal Stage 1 for agreeing to continue in the role of Gordon West Public School COVID-19 coordinator for 2021.

We are also very fortunate to receive regular COVID-19 Updates from the Department of Education that provide very detailed guidelines and procedures to be implemented.

COVID -19 Update.

Parents are encouraged to drop their children off at the school entrances. Parents of Year 1 and Year 2 children have been allowed to drop their children off at their classrooms then immediately leave the school grounds. However from Monday next 8 February 2021 parents of these children are requested to drop and pick up their children from the school entrances.

Dates to Remember

Tuesday 9 February

GWPS Swimming Carnival



Friday 19 February

PSSA Round 1

Friday 5 March

Zone Swimming

Tuesday 16 March

Photo Day

Thursday 1 April

Last Day Term 1

Friday 2 April

Good Friday



Monday 19 April

Staff Development Day

Tuesday 20 April

Students Resume Term2

If this arrangement presents any problems please speak to your child's teacher or contact the school.

Parents of Year 3 to Year 6 children are not permitted on the school grounds unless they have a scheduled appointment with a teacher.

Parents of Kindergarten children are permitted to drop their children off at their classroom and then immediately leave the school grounds.

We ask the Kindergarten parents to use the Pee Wee park entrance if possible when dropping off Kindergarten children in the morning.

Once again Gordon West has been granted special permission to use the artificial grass area adjacent to the school hall to dismiss Kindergarten children in the afternoon. Kindergarten teachers will bring their classes to this area for dismissal.

Kindergarten children will be dismissed at 2:40pm for at least the first two weeks of school.

If it is raining Kindergarten teachers will dismiss their classes from under the COLA in front of the administration building.

For any parents entering the school grounds the Department of Education has advised that it is a requirement for parents to scan the COVID Safe QR codes which are located at all access points around the school.

Parents have the option of downloading the Service NSW App to help facilitate this process.

The first newsletter for the year outlines a number of school procedures and I apologise to those parents who have read similar information previously and for the length of my message. However the information contained remains very important.

Parents can also access the Gordon West Information Handbook publication on the school website.

We encourage all parents to use the website as an information source and also sign up to the Gordon West SkoolBag App.

We appreciate suggestions as to how we can improve our website to facilitate better communication between the school and the community.

All family representatives will receive a hardcopy of our recently updated Gordon West Handbook with today's Bulletin.

Excellent communication is of the utmost importance in running any successful organisation and our school is no exception. School organisation on day one was very exciting with a number of new teachers, new students and many internal changes.

We bid farewell to Mrs Yeow, Ms Denyer, Mrs Tambakis

and Ms Parsons.

We thank these teachers for their wonderful contribution to the Gordon West School community and wish them all the best in their new endeavours.

Mrs Sheldon continues to work as a consultant in the Department of Education's Parramatta office.

We welcome Mr Moses and Ms Blair to Gordon West.

Mr Moses comes to Gordon West from Castle Cove Public School and is a very experienced Assistant Principal will replace Mrs Sheldon and supervise the Stage 2 section of our school.

Mr Moses and Mrs Harvey have been appointed Instructional Leaders for 2021.

A number of teachers also returned from maternity leave.

Once again we also took the opportunity to provide different career opportunities for a number of teachers by moving them internally to gain valuable experience in the four different stages across K-6. It is very important for a teacher's professional development to gain experience across the different stages.

Best Start Kindergarten testing has been completed and the new Kindergarten children have settled in well.

Mrs Armstrong the Assistant Principal and her team have ensured that the newest members of the Gordon West family are being well looked after.

Unfortunately COVID-19 restrictions prevented the hosting of a lovely morning tea which is a regular feature of the Gordon West school calendar and an excellent means of welcoming new parents to our school.

Hopefully we will be able to hold a similar event later in the term.

The Gordon West FRASC Welcome Fest held annually is an excellent way to commence the year and to welcome new parents to the school.

Unfortunately after consultation with Mr O'Keefe our Parents and Citizens Association president, Mrs Mark our FRASC president and Mrs Harvey our COVID-19 coordinator we have had to postpone this event.

Hopefully we will be able to organise a similar event later in the year.

Preliminary information notes have been sent home in relation to the organisation of our swimming carnival scheduled for next Tuesday to those who are eligible to participate.

Once again COVID-19 has played havoc with our usual organisational model.

In summary the West Pymble Aquatic Centre has

capped our overall participation numbers at 300 resulting in the following changes.

1. No parent spectators will be allowed.
2. The only parents in attendance will be the parents who help in the running of the carnival with the expectation that the parent helpers will work for the total duration of the carnival.
3. Children who are not strong swimmers over a fifty metre distance are advised not to participate in the carnival and to stay at school.
4. The same expectation applies to Year 2 students whose age makes them eligible to attend the carnival but who are not strong swimmers.
The only eligible Year 2 swimmers who participate in the carnival should be those who believe that they are competitive swimmers and that they could proceed on to the Zone Carnival later in the Term.
5. Children who attend the carnival will not be able to order from the Gordon West school canteen on the day of the carnival.
6. If possible can participants wear their swimming costumes under their clothes so that they limit the use of the change rooms on site.

During the vacation due to the size of the undertaking we outsourced our ground maintenance program to Joseph Gallo Landscaping a former parent of Gordon West Public school.

Mr Gallo and his team with assistance from Salvatore Castelnuovo (Sam) our Gordon West Projects manager, spent a great deal of time and effort to ensure that the grounds are looking magnificent which was a huge task. Work was also commenced on terracing the oval bank and although not as yet completed it will look magnificent when finished.



Congratulations to Miss Bella Harvey our Band Director on her permanent appointment to the Australian Navy Band. Miss Harvey has been associated with Gordon West for over 10 years and has done a marvellous job as

Band Director.

Bella's passionate and professional manner has ensured that our band program has gone from strength to strength.

Teaching Services Australia, our Band Administrators have already appointed Jane Nelson to conduct the Training Band and Mike Votano to conduct Concert Band 1 and Concert Band 2. Lachlan Hamilton will continue as our Jazz Band conductor.

School Development Days are extremely valuable for school organisation and teacher professional development.

We thank you for your support of these days as we realise School Development Days can be an organisational challenge for parents. On our School Development Days on Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 January we were able to provide an opportunity for effective teacher professional development.

It was wonderful to observe the enthusiasm of the 53 members of staff engaged in a variety of activities, a number of which are so much more difficult to organise at our regular after school staff meetings.

The School Development Day program overview will be presented at the first meeting of the Gordon West Parents and Citizens Association on Monday 22 February. Please contact Mr Sparke should you wish to receive a copy of the School Development Program or should you care to ask any questions relating to School Development Days.

The challenges of COVID-19 last year overshadowed the wonderful work being done by Public Schools across NSW under the auspices of the School Excellence Policy.

I have enclosed a copy of the School Excellence Policy summary for your information.

At Gordon West we are very excited and committed to the School Excellence Policy.

At this point in time we have completed our School Situational Analysis and have also completed Strategic Direction 1 of our 3 Strategic Directions of the School Improvement Plan which is due for completion by the end of Term 1 2021.

Unfortunately due to COVID-19 restrictions we have not been able to present this very exciting plan to our school community for comment but will do so at the first available opportunity.

Congratulations and thank you to Mr Sparke for being an incredibly talented and professional chairperson of both the External Validation and the School Excellence Policy committees.

Parent Information evenings scheduled for Week 5 will continue as planned with parent numbers limited to 30 per class which will mean one parent per family. Given these restrictions there will be no whole Stage presentations prior to the individual class presentations. Parent gatherings for the "tea and cakes" prior to and after these presentations have also had to be cancelled. More information regarding the Parent Information Evenings will be sent home next week.

Mr O'Keefe President of the Gordon West Parents and Citizens Association and Mrs Mark President of the FRASC welcome feedback on any aspect of school organisation.

Finally a big thank you to the Gordon West school community for the very compassionate, rational manner in which the challenges of COVID-19 have been addressed.

We will continue to monitor the Coronavirus situation closely and take advice received from the NSW Ministry of Health and the NSW Department of Education to ensure that we are responding appropriately.

We look forward to a successful year.

J Huckerby
Principal

2021 House Captains

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected House Captains for 2021:

Gareaway

Captains: Alicia B & Lachlan D
Vice Captains: Wyn Yen C & Billy H



Waugan

Captains: Emily H & Erol E
Vice Captains: Caitlin V & Matiu F



Mulgo

Captains: Jemima C & Ashwin S
Vice Captains: Emily Y & Baxter M



Marayong

Captains: Jasmine C & Ahaan M
Vice Captains: Kiara H & Brian L



Gareaway
Blue
Cockatoo



Waugan
Red
Raven



Mulgo
Yellow
Swan



Marayong
Green
Emu

Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival (ASBOF) Awards

2020 was a very challenging year for bands, as they could not rehearse together while the schools were closed and physical distancing restrictions were in place. Still, the band members continued with online lessons with their private tutors, and Miss Harvey formed a Google Classroom to keep everyone going with online rehearsals. In Term 4 when the bands could rehearse in person again, they put together a video submission for the Australia School Band and Orchestra Festival. This was sent for adjudication, which is when experienced conductors watch the recording and judge their performance. We are pleased to announce that CB1 received a SILVER award, and CB2 received GOLD!! This is a wonderful achievement in very trying circumstances, and Miss Harvey and the school are very proud. Miss Harvey has accepted a job with the Royal Australian Navy as a professional musician playing trumpet, and the Gordon West community wishes her the very best in this next chapter.



Miss Harvey with current band members.



**Pymble
Playgroup**

LET'S
GET
SOCIAL



Where fun, family & community connect



For parents with young children who want to connect in a covid safe environment

Pymble Playgroup is a local community group for parents/carers and children from birth to school age. Run by volunteers playgroup is an opportunity for children to socialise and learn through play and to develop their social emotional and physical skills, and an opportunity for parents and carers to develop social and support networks. The transition from birth to school age hold some big changes and playgroup plays a key role in helping children and parents embrace these developments and improve children's school readiness' by:

Encouraging independence

Improving kids' emotional wellbeing and physical health

Providing more engaged community experiences

Increasing social awareness and inclusivity

Learning and developing through informal play activities;

Making friends and reducing feelings of isolation.

These benefits and more are reasons to attend playgroup in the years before school starts.

Pymble Playgroup runs from a heritage house in Pymble dedicated to Playgroup, a covid safe space for parents and children to connect and make friends prior to school. Making Playgroup part of a weekly routine gives children the valuable opportunity to connect in the community and brings parents and carers together to bond over shared experiences.

Sessions are available Monday to

Friday, email pymbleplaygroup@gmail.com or visit our website for existing sessions, fees and more

information www.pymbleplaygroup.com.au

PLAY



WPFC.COM.AU

FOOTBALL WITH US

Thinking of playing football? Find out more about football with WPFC at the below events. See you there!

TEAM ALLOCATION & GRADING (TAGS)

UNDER 8 - UNDER 18YRS

SUN FEB 14, NORMAN GRIFFITHS OVAL, 8.30AM-7PM

SUN FEB 21, NORMAN GRIFFITHS OVAL, 8.30AM-7PM

COME AND TRY DAY

UNDER 6 - UNDER 7YRS

SUN MARCH 7, NORMAN GRIFFITHS OVAL, 8.30AM-11AM

FREE
soccer ball
for
Under 6-7s

FOR AGE GROUP TIMES VISIT WPFC.COM.AU



Macquarie Dragons FOOTBALL CLUB

Online Registrations Open Jan 4

**Boys Girls
Men's &
Ladies Teams
Minis Youth
& Adults
Football**



For more information please visit our website:

www.macquariedragons.com.au

FOSTERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF FOOTBALL

PLAY YOUR WAY. PLAY NETBALL.

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN



COME AND PLAY NETBALL WITH WEST PYMBLE NETBALL CLUB

Interested in playing netball?

Ages 7 and up

Wonderful team sport, make new friends, learn new skills, get fit and healthy

Boys and Girls welcome

Online registrations are open now

For more information visit our website or contact our Junior Registrar:

www.westpymblenetball.com.au

juniorregistrar@westpymblenetball.com.au

UNIFORM & INFORMATION DAY 6th FEBRUARY 2021, 10am to 1pm West Pymble
Bicentennial Club. EFTPOS payment only for uniforms.



MAKE FRIENDS. BURN ENERGY. PLAY NETBALL.

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN



Ku-Ring-Gai Kangaroos Basketball Club



Sign! Up Now

New Season starting soon

Monday

Year 1/2 Boys

Year 1/2 Girls

Year 9/10/11 Girls

Open Women

Tuesday

Year 3/4 Girls

Year 5/6 Girls

Year 9/10 Boys

Wednesday

Year 3/4 Boys

Year 5/6 Boys

Thursday

Year 7/8 Boys

Year 7/8 Girls

Friday

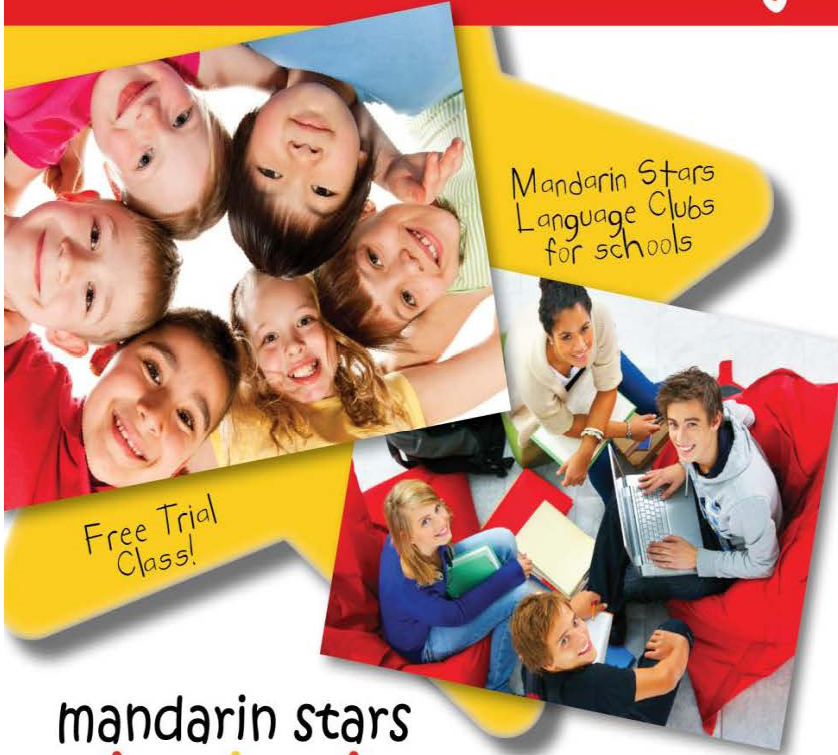
U/21 Men

www.kkbc.com.au

Contact David on 0409-231914

kuringgaibasketball@gmail.com

Kids!! Have fun learning to speak Mandarin



mandarin stars



fun mandarin for kids

**Mandarin Language Club at
Gordon West Public School!**

The Mandarin Stars program offers:

- Small class sizes.
- **FUN**, engaging and highly interactive Mandarin classes for non-native learners.
- An immersion based program that teaches strong listening and speaking skills in Mandarin.
- Language building activities such as role play, puppet shows, puzzles and games.
- A fun introduction to reading & writing Chinese characters!
- The discovery of Chinese culture, festivals, Calligraphy, Tai Chi and even Kung Fu!

Classes on Tuesday afternoons

3:15pm – 4:00pm for K- 6 Students

Please contact us directly &

BOOK A FREE TRIAL LESSON!

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www.mandarinstars.com.au ★ enrol@mandarinstars.com.au ★ Ph: (02) 8437 2498

BULLETIN HARDCOPIES

This bulletin is available on the school website and emailed every fortnight for all parents to view. To reduce our impact on the environment the printed copy of the bulletin will only be provided to families who specifically request a hardcopy.

Please complete this form and send to the school office if you require the bulletin in hardcopy format:

Eldest Child's Name:.....Class:.....

Parents Signature:.....

School Excellence Policy

Direction for schools on school planning, ongoing self-assessment, annual reporting and external validation.

1. Policy statement

1. NSW public schools are committed to pursuing excellence and providing high-quality educational opportunities for all students. This policy provides direction for schools to lead strategic improvement planning and annual reporting, to self-assess, and undertake external validation using the School Excellence Framework.
2. Schools engage in all aspects of the School Excellence cycle comprising of the Situational Analysis, Strategic Improvement Plan, implementation and progress monitoring of the plan, and an annual reflection of progress and impact.
3. Strategic improvement planning, implementation and progress monitoring, self-assessment, situational analysis, annual reporting, external validation and school development reviews will be undertaken in accordance with the School Excellence Procedure.
4. All schools will use the School Planning and Reporting Online (SPaRO) software to undertake and complete their Strategic Improvement Plan, implementation and progress monitoring, self-assessment, situational analysis, annual reporting including reporting on equity, targeted and initiative funding linked to effective practice and improvement measures, and external validation.
5. All schools will consult their community. Community consultation is embedded in all phases of the School Excellence cycle.
6. Schools will develop a four-year Strategic Improvement Plan in consultation with their community. The plan has up to three strategic directions with a minimum of two high impact improvement measures for each strategic direction linked to school based targets. These form the basis of the planning cycle in accordance with the purpose and specific context of each school.
7. For schools with an on-going cohort, Strategic Direction 1 in the Strategic Improvement Plan will be Student growth and attainment. The remaining strategic directions are selected by the school to reflect and respond to their unique context. Schools without an on-going cohort will develop strategic directions related to the broad educational delivery to a range of students within a short time frame rather than a set point in time.
8. Schools will monitor the progress of their Strategic Improvement Plan in SPaRO. It is best practice for schools to review their activities at least twice a term in SPaRO. All schools will annually evaluate against their progress measures.
9. The Strategic Improvement Plan will be published on the school's website by the end of Term 1 in the first year of the 4 year School Excellence cycle. The plan is required as a state record.
10. Each year, schools will undertake a self-assessment of practice and development, using the School Excellence Framework to identify areas of strength and areas to improve. This will include completing the School

Excellence Framework Self-assessment Survey (SEF S-aS) and reporting the findings in the school's annual report.

11. Once during the four-year School Excellence cycle, each school will undertake an external validation of evidence of their school self-assessment. Schools engage in discussions with an external panel and have their self-assessments validated using the School Excellence Framework. A panel report will be provided to the school following external validation.
 12. Schools report annually to their communities and the system in the school's annual report. Schools will publish the annual report on their website by the end of Term 1 of the following school year, which is a state record requirement. The latest annual report will be publicly available.
 13. The School Excellence policy recognises that some schools may require targeted assistance at any point in the School Excellence cycle. Where the Director, Educational Leadership, in consultation with the principal, identifies that a school requires significant assistance in its pursuit of excellence, a school development review may be undertaken.
 14. Recommendations from school development reviews will inform the school's strategic improvement planning and focus on supporting the principal to shift the school onto a sustainable path of performance and improvement.
2. Audience and applicability
 1. This policy applies to all staff and communities of NSW public schools.
 3. Context
 1. The NSW Government and the department are committed to providing the highest quality of education for NSW children and to be Australia's best education system and one of the finest in the world.
 2. The School Excellence Framework is a statement of what is valued as excellence for NSW public schools, both now and into the future, and provides guidance on achieving this. It identifies quality practice across the three key domains of learning, teaching and leading. School excellence is pursued through the components of strategic improvement planning, self-assessment, reporting and external validation to support ongoing school improvement.
 3. Schools will engage their communities in developing a shared vision, identifying strategic directions, and tracking and reporting progress as the basis for achieving school excellence.
 4. Objectivity, transparency and consistency are important elements for ensuring a system-wide approach that supports schools to achieve excellence. The external validation process provides assurances to the school and the community that progress aligns with the expectations articulated in the School Excellence Framework.
 5. An additional process involving school development reviews enables appropriate intervention and support for schools requiring targeted assistance.
 4. Responsibilities and delegations
 1. Principals are responsible for pursuing school excellence and the provision of high-quality educational opportunities for all students by:
 1. leading the school community in developing and successfully implementing the four-year Strategic Improvement Plan
 2. endorsing the strategic improvement planning process as an accurate representation of community consultation and evidence-informed decision-making

3. confirming the completion of each aspect of the Strategic Improvement Plan using the conversation guide in SPaRO, with their Director, Educational Leadership
 4. publishing the Strategic Improvement Plan on the school's website by the end of Term 1 at the start of a School Excellence cycle. Publish any updates made to the plan during the cycle annually, by the end of Term 1 of the current year. The plan will be archived as a state record
 5. leading a collaborative, ongoing process of self-assessment that involves critical and authentic reflection of the school's progress supported by evidence collected over time
 6. monitoring the implementation of the Strategic Improvement Plan and making necessary adjustments as required
 7. using the School Excellence Framework to lead the ongoing assessment of the school's practices to inform the Strategic Improvement Plan and the annual report. This includes the annual completion of the School Excellence Framework Self-assessment Survey by the end of Term 1 of the following school year
 8. leading the preparation of the annual report, which reflects the school's achievements and meets the department's reporting requirements
 9. publishing the annual report by the end of Term 1 of the following year. The document will be archived as a state record.
 10. leading the preparation of a submission for external validation. The submission will include evidence from the school's self-assessment processes on the school's achievements and ongoing progress using the School Excellence Framework
 11. taking appropriate action following an external validation
 12. actioning any recommendations from school development reviews, if undertaken.
2. Principals, School Leadership are responsible for pursuing school excellence and providing high quality educational opportunities for all students by:
 1. supporting the school in the strategic improvement planning, self-assessment and annual reporting processes
 2. working collaboratively with principals and school teams (when requested), to prepare the school's external validation submission
 3. leading external validations with a principal colleague. Principals, School Leadership only lead external validation panels for schools they have not previously supported in preparing the school's external validation submission.
 3. Directors, Educational Leadership are responsible for pursuing school excellence and providing high quality educational opportunities for all students by:
 1. supporting principals to engage in all aspects of the School Excellence cycle
 2. engaging in regular professional conversations with the principal regarding the school's Strategic Improvement Plan, self-assessment and annual report
 3. confirming the completion of each aspect of the Strategic Improvement Plan using the conversation guide in SPaRO with the principal
 4. approving the school's Strategic Improvement Plan before it is published

5. monitoring the implementation of Strategic Improvement Plans and annual reporting processes for compliance with legislative and policy requirements
 6. working collaboratively with principals and school teams to prepare the school's external validation submission
 7. affirming the school's external validation submission as being a true and accurate representation of the school's processes in strategic improvement planning, self-assessment and reporting
 8. nominating schools to the Executive Director, School Performance for a school development review, where appropriate and following consultation with the principal
 9. leading a team to undertake a school development review and determining appropriate strategies for implementation at the school, in consultation with the principal
 10. producing a school development review report for the principal and the Executive Director, School Performance with the findings and recommendations of the review
 11. supporting the principal to take appropriate action following an external validation and to implement any recommendations from a school development review, if undertaken.
4. The Group Director, Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation liaises with Directors, PSL and External Validation, Strategic School Improvement and School Excellence, to report to the Secretary on data from the School Excellence Framework Self-assessment Survey and external validation process.
 5. The Director, Strategic Improvement provides digital copies of the annual report and strategic improvement plan of all government schools to State Archives and Records each year, as required by the State Archives and Record Authority of New South Wales Functional Retention and Disposal Authority: FA387.
5. Monitoring and review
 1. The Director, School Excellence monitors the implementation of this policy and reviews its contents for relevance and accuracy every three years or as needed.
 6. Contact
 1. Director, School Excellence
SchoolExcellenceUnit@det.nsw.edu.au