



Gresford Public School

Newsletter Term 1

Week 2

6th February 2020

Principal's message

Welcome back to Term 1 2020 everybody!

Can I start this newsletter off by saying thankyou to everyone who has extended me such a warm welcome to Gresford PS. From the outset I have been so grateful for everyone's support and well wishes and I know I am going to have a great time while I am here.

I know you are all probably wondering how Mrs Mitchell is going – at last contact she was spending some leisurely hours reading and planning mini vacations to Sydney and Forster!

Teachers have been busy planning a host of activities for students including an excursion to the Hunter Wetlands in Week 8, a walking excursion to the river to participate in Water watch, and Bell Shakespeare. Notes etc will come home in the next few weeks relating to these activities.

All families should have received information about their child's class arrangements for this year. Information evenings will be held on the 11th February to explain the class organisation in more detail – we hope to see as many of you as possible.

This week we also welcomed 2 of our therapy dogs – Missy and Meek. There is much research around the benefits of therapy pets in workplaces, schools and the home and they will play an important role in supporting students who may be experiencing a little anxiousness around school. The children were very excited to have the dogs visit and they even managed to help dry a few tears from some of our newest arrivals.

Along with our therapy dogs – Monday saw the welcoming of our newest little students. This gorgeous bunch of little blossoms have been settling into the routines of school life and have been very ably supported by their teacher Katie Dunn. We understand there is always a high level of anxiousness around your child starting school. If you're concerned about your child in any way please contact the school office and organise an appointment with your child's teacher – remember we are here to work together with you to ensure the very best learning opportunities for your child in a safe and supportive environment.

This year we welcome Ms Toni Falk as GPS School Counsellor. Ms Falk will be in the school once a fortnight and we thank her for her support of our students. We are also in the process of updating contact details for our families. If your mobile/landline number, address, emergency contacts, work contact number or employment details have changed can you please notify the office as soon as possible.
Have a lovely week everyone.



School Planning Snippets

This week staff spent a busy few hours upskilling themselves in CPR, Anaphylaxis, delivery of Epipens and Defibrillators and basic First aid.

These are a yearly requirement of the DET and we are grateful to be able to undertake this training – we always learn new and improved ways to ensure everyone is safe and well cared for at Gresford PS.



4938 9304



www.gresford-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

We welcome our new
2020 Kindergarten students
and
teacher Mrs Katie Dunn
to Gresford Public School



February

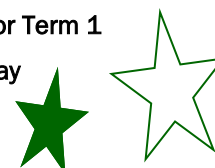
- Tue 11 - Parent Information afternoon
- Thu 20 - Bell Shakespeare workshop
Years 3 to 6
- Fri 21 - P&C AGM - 10.00am
- Meet & Greet Disco 6-8pm
- Tue 25 - Water Watch whole school
excursion

MARCH

- Fri 13 - Gresford Show excursion
- Tue 17 - Wetlands excursion
- Fri 20 - P&C meeting 10.00am
- Tue 24 - School Photos
- Fri 27 - School Cross Country

APRIL

- Fri 3 - Zone Cross County
- Thu 9 - Last day for Term 1
- Fri 10 - Good Friday



CANTEEN ROSTER

**NO
canteen
tomorrow
Friday
7th February**

Canteen will
open
on Wednesday
12th February



Tucker Box & P&C News

Gresford Public School
P & C Association

invite you to their Meet and Greet Disco on
Friday 21st February 2020
6.00pm to 8.00pm

Gresford School Hardcourt
\$2.50 entry per person

Sausage sandwiches, drinks, chips and lollies will be
available for purchase of the night.

All children must be supervised by a parent or carer.

Uniform news

Please contact Lyndell Osmond if you have any enquirers about
uniforms regarding sizing or purchasing.

Parent Information Sessions Tuesday 11th February

Kindergarten - 3.15pm

Class 1/2 - 3.45pm

Class 3/4 - 4.15pm

Class 5/6 - 4.45pm

Please come along to your information session to find out how you can help your child at school.

It's a Girl! Congratulations to

Mrs Davies who welcomed her new daughter
Maya Quinn Davies on
Wednesday 29th January 2020, 2.18pm.
Weighing 4.18 Kilos and 50.5 cm long



Hello from Mrs Rubeli

Mrs Rubeli has been a familiar face at Gresford for the last five years and is now working here four days per week. You will find her teaching 3/4 Science and Technology, Geography, Drama, Principal's Release and Year 3-6 enrichment Literacy and Maths.

Mrs Rubeli has a background in nature education and is also a trained children's yoga teacher.

A message from Mrs Rubeli: "Yoga club is up and running again for any students who would like to have fun and unwind on Monday recess."

Favourite colour: purple. Favourite book: The Lord of the Rings. Favourite animal: Whales.

"I am looking forward to a great year of learning with everyone at beautiful Gresford PS."



Before and After School Care



Our Before and After School Care Service provides quality, fully accredited child care services, Monday to Thursday both mornings and afternoons at the following times:

Mornings: 7.00am to 8.45am and
Afternoons: 3.00pm to 5.30pm.

No Fridays.

Gresford Phone No: 0447 504 978. Head Office Phone No: 4934 6725
Rebates and casual vacancies available. Enrolment forms available at the office.

Please support this excellent service

2020 SEASON WINTER COMP

Eligible Kids play FREE!

Soccer Registrations



Under 6's to All Age Men's & Women's – Gresford Vacy Football Club
Children turning 5 in 2019 can play as Under 6's - We cater for junior Mixed and Girls only Teams

'Eligible Kids Free' are school aged children between 5 – 7 years old where their family has utilised the governments' \$100 Active Kids Voucher from Service NSW

Older juniors have minimal out of pocket cost after the voucher, please see table below

For voucher information: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-active-kids-voucher>

You must register online at: playfootball.com.au

WIN rebel vouchers & refunds !!!

4x weekly prize draws of vouchers and merchandise during Feb - All registered players eligible.
Major prizes drawn on March 1st. Juniors Major prize is Rebel Vouchers - 1st \$150, 2nd \$75, 3rd \$50 Seniors Major prize is - 1st prize = full rego refund, 2nd prize = half rego refund. Must be registered and paid in full to be eligible for Major prizes

Rego Info Days – Tues 18th & Tues 25th Feb, 3pm-5pm at Vacy sportsground

NB: New players MUST bring a copy of their birth certificate

Every NEW player receives a playing strip & dress shirt

NB: all juniors receive a free training ball too

| Category | GVFC Rego Fee | Less Active Kids \$100 Voucher | GVFC Game fees | Season Total Cost |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Entry 5 years (Preschool) | \$50.00 | NA – \$0 | nil, zero, zilch, nothing, included in Rego Fee | Only \$50 Rego – No game fees |
| Entry 5 - 7 yrs | \$100.00 | \$0 | nil, zero, zilch, nothing, included in Rego Fee | Nothing if Service NSW \$100 Active Kids voucher utilised – else \$100 |
| Youth 8 - 11 yrs | \$120.00 | \$20 | nil, zero, zilch, nothing, included in Rego Fee | Only \$20 if Service NSW \$100 Active Kids voucher utilised |
| Youth 12 -18 yrs | \$170.00 | \$70 | nil, zero, zilch, nothing, included in Rego Fee | Only \$70 if Service NSW \$100 Active Kids voucher utilised |
| Senior Amateur | \$250.00 | NA – \$0 \$250 | Saturday & Sunday: \$100 upfront or \$10 per game Friday nights: \$130 upfront or \$13 per game | Saturday & Sunday: \$350 Friday nights: \$380 for rego and games fees |

For more information or help contact:

Club President Jim Doyle M: 0407 307 800 – Club Secretary Jack Cowled M: 0427 385 603
Web: www.scorpss.com.au Email: gresfordvacyfc@outlook.com

What parents need to know about MINECRAFT

There's a very good chance you've heard of Minecraft. The block building phenomenon is, arguably, the most beloved video game of all time which has managed to maintain its popularity since its first release back in 2011. Nine years later, it still has a huge userbase of 112 million people playing the game every month. Accessible to those 7+, Minecraft can be a gateway into a world of learning and exploration which encourages players to use their imagination to build three-dimensional worlds with virtual building blocks. While Minecraft is considered relatively safe generally speaking, there are some safety precautions parents may want to consider before allowing their children loose on the game.

AGE RESTRICTION 7+

OPEN TO HACKING
Hackers can be a real problem in any online game, including Minecraft. Some individuals can access other people's games to disrupt their play time, or even worse, access private data of other players such as their names, email addresses, social media and so on. It would be incredibly rare and unfortunate to encounter a player like this, but it does happen and must be taken as a serious risk.

RISK OF GRIEFING
Griefing is when someone purposely ruins another player's game. This can be done by ruining somebody's creations, stealing items, or even just annoying somebody. It can be difficult to keep track of when being griefed and an innocent comment in one person's eye could be seen as a challenge by somebody else. Stealing supplies, destroying things that take hours to build and harassing innocent players can all be consequences if care isn't taken.

ADDICTIVE NATURE
Minecraft can be an incredibly exciting game but it can also be very addictive. Too much time on the game could impact on your child's behaviour, causing them to become irritable or angry when being asked to stop playing. This might suggest it might be time to address some time away from the game. Addictive behaviour can be recognised as a loss of interest in other activities and gaming in moderation is always recommended.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS
Most players aged 7 and over will be able to play the game comfortably and, whilst creating an account does ask you to input your date of birth for confirmation, there's no way to check if the information is correct nor to check someone's real identity. This could mean that children younger than 7 could access the game. However, what is more concerning is that adults pretending to be children could be recruiting by being online. It's important to be aware of the game and be interacting with your child.

'SCARY' CHARACTERS FOR YOUNGER GAMERS
For the most part, Minecraft is not a scary game. Despite this, there are certain characters in the game that younger children in particular may find frightening. Creepers, zombies and various other 'badder' can be commonplace in some parts of the game and young minds may find it difficult to disassociate them from real life when they catch off the game.

National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday

Safety Tips for Parents

BLOCK STRANGERS AND UNWANTED CONTACT
Despite the fact that private messages can no longer be sent in the game, strangers may still attempt to contact your child. From the game menu, players can block chat and friend requests from others in the game. This prevents any private messages and phone numbers to become automatically blocked, ensuring it's harder for people you don't know to potentially contact your child.

LEARN FROM YOUTUBERS / TWITCH STREAMERS
There are a lot of Minecraft-focused YouTubers and Twitch streamers that offer a huge variety of fun, engaging content. Many of them feature online tutorials for younger gamers, which don't include bad language or anything scary. If you're unsure about the game, check out some of the biggest creators and more importantly, ask when your child asks. This will help you to understand what the game is about and also make sure that your children are watching age-appropriate content online.

PLAY IN CREATIVE OR PEACEFUL MODES
Playing the game on Creative or Peaceful mode ensures that the experience is strictly safe. Peaceful mode allows children to explore the world without having to worry about the threat of normal Minecraft, while Creative mode allows them to create and build with unlimited resources, encouraging creation of real, personalised worlds. There really are no limits as to what can be accomplished and getting involved yourself can make it a great way to bond with your child and give you a long-term project to complete with them.

MONITOR GAME TIME
Being able to play on a wide variety of platforms can be a benefit however it can also make it more difficult to put the game down. Play time should be to your child if you feel they are spending too much time on the game or showing signs of addictive behaviour.

CREATE A PRIVATE SERVER
The best way to avoid unwanted strangers or griefers in a server is to create your own. Private servers are usually what they are on the tin by offering a safe, secure place for children to play and create with their friends, free from online harassment. They tend to be owned and run by the server and what kind of things they can do in it, making it the closest thing Minecraft offers to parental controls.

LEARN TO PLAY YOURSELF
Minecraft is an incredibly easy game to pick up and play. However, it doesn't require any experience or computer skills, with versions available for smartphones and tablets. Encouraging your child to play yourself and playing alongside your child is the best way to understand the game and will help to put your mind at ease in respect of what your child is watching and who they may be interacting with.

CREATE SERVER WHITELISTS
Unless you know to be safe, have your child's friends or relatives, can have their accounts whitelisted so safe. Essentially, this means that server moderators can create a community made up of people they know to be friendly and children will only be playing alongside people both they and you know, reducing any risk of contact with strangers or experiencing griefing.

Meet our expert
Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of one of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNLAD Gaming and GAMINGHUB. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

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Hunter Valley PHYSIE

Does your daughter love to dance??

Hunter Valley Physie has dance classes for girls from the age of 2yrs right through to ladies!

Physie is an affordable dance sport, which helps develop good posture, strength, fitness, flexibility, co-ordination and balance through dance. Our national choreography curriculum is age-appropriately designed to teach the relationship of music to movement, rhythm and musical interpretation. We provide a new syllabus and music every year and run fun annual competitions for teams and individuals. Contact us for more information huntervalleyphysie@gmail.com or find us on Facebook @ BJP Hunter Valley Physical Culture

Hunter Valley Physie is a registered Active Kids and Creative Kids provider

PRNC

Paterson River Netball Club

PRNC is holding its information/uniform day at John Tucker Park Paterson on the 8th of Feb 2020 from 10am - 1pm. The whole family is welcome, come along and meet the coaches and have some fun! There are Teams for all ages. \$100 Active Kids voucher available

Register on line at <http://patersonrivenc.nsw.netball.com.au/>

Important Dates

- Early Bird Registration 1st-31st of Jan 2020
- Normal Registration 1st - 13th of Feb 2020
- Registrations close on the 13th of Feb 2020
- PRNC Information/Uniform day 8th Feb 2020
- Round One Commences 28th of March 2020

Games
Drill/skill practice
Prizes to be won

Support Encourage Respect Advance