



Gresford Public School

Newsletter Term 1

Week 6

5th March 2020

Principal's message

Hello everyone!

Well week 6 is upon us and I'm not quite sure how it got here so quickly!! The children have been busy in the last couple of weeks preparing some amazing items for the upcoming Gresford Show (apologies to the families of my 3/4 students who are currently on a God's Eye craze!). I am really looking forward to attending my first Gresford Show and I hope to be able to meet more of you at the event.

We reported in our last newsletter that Tim McCallum, Executive Director would be visiting the school. Unfortunately, Mr McCallum had a change in plans and was unable to make it to Gresford. We look forward to opening our school to him at some stage in the future.

Last week the teaching staff met with me to discuss their professional development plans. All teachers (including me) are required to identify professional learning goals and document how these align to the school plan and the NSW Teaching standards, whilst supporting the learning outcomes of every student. This process allows us to identify the types of training that teachers attend and how this will have direct benefits for the students and the school in achieving and improving outcomes.

Similarly, our SASS staff met with me to go through a similar process. This meeting was a real eye opener for me. SASS staff have always been such a wonderful resource for schools but in talking with the team at Gresford Public School I was utterly blown away by the number of additional tasks they undertake. The SASS team – Nicole, Ruth, Brittany, Megan, Kathy and Keith, really do go above and beyond to support the teaching staff and more importantly the children. In the coming weeks we will outline for the community a little more about the roles and responsibilities of our SASS staff to allow parents and carers a greater insight into how this amazing team of people are providing support for the entire school community.

Last week Mr O'Hara-Smith attended the 3-day course 'Connecting To Country' at Murrook Cultural Centre. For Mr O this has been a deeply moving and quite emotional process and on Tuesday afternoon staff were taken through some of the key elements of how we can continue to improve the way in which support our Aboriginal students and families but also ensuring that we are being respectful and responsible in educating all our students about the traditional land owners of this country.

In the coming weeks each of the classes will be adopting a class garden/s. This will involve all students working with Megan Edwards to research planting, irrigation systems and applying for grants etc. Our environmental program is one of great pride here at GPS and we look forward to watching the class gardens grow and develop.

Mr Taylor and Mrs Rubeli will be attending a film making workshop next week in preparation for us to participate in the Films by the Rolling Hills Festival. In addition, we will be looking at incorporating a number of exciting speaking and listening opportunities utilising the film making kit. Stay tuned!

Thank you for the support you have given us during the first six weeks of the school year. Please remember that no question is a silly one! As I have said previously, respectful partnerships are crucial in the running of any school and you as Gresford parents, are welcome to ask at any time if you need clarification or have concerns about the wellbeing of your child.

Have a fabulous fortnight everyone – I'll see you at the show!

Michelle Crowfoot

(Relieving Principal)



4938 9304



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



SCHOOL MERITS

Sebastian Redhouse, Nyah O'Connor, William Richardson, Tillie Parish, Rylee-Grace Walters, Maggie Maroulis, Charli Barnett, Bella Sellens

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Bailey Garaty, Annabelle Chesworth, Egidy Temba, Hamish Mead, Eliza Mitchell, Pearl Farley, Bridie Booth, Charlee Swindle

PBL AWARDS

Harrison Wells, Charlotte Marsh, Ryan Thiecke, Mia Wilton, Cherry Ropata, Zaiden Apthorpe, Cullen William, William Thiecke

LIBRARY AWARDS

William Richardson, Harrison Wells

GOOD LISTENER AWARDS

Norton Bynon, Hendrix Johnston

SPORTS AWARDS

Zara Mutton, Maggie Maroulis, Winnie Maroulis, Luca Kraefft, Aiden Caukwell, Toby Addison, Chelsea Crow, Kammi Conn

MARCH

- Wed 11 - Dungog High Year 7 Information Night for 2021/22
- Fri 13 - Gresford Show excursion
- Tue 17 - Wetlands excursion
- Fri 20 - P&C meeting 10.00am - Harmony Day - Special speaker at whole School Assembly 10.30am All Welcome!
- Tue 24 - School Photos
- Fri 27 - School Cross Country

APRIL

- Fri 3 - Zone Cross County
- Wed 8 - Easter Hat Parade
- Thu 9 - Last day for Term 1
- Fri 10 - Good Friday



CANTEEN ROSTER

- Friday 6 March Tracy Merchant & Shantelle Turnbull
- Wednesday 11 March Rebecca Marsh & Illanda Ellis
- Friday 13 March Amy Garaty & Sylvia Lawrence
- Wednesday 18 March Felicia Redhouse & Elise Chesworth
- Friday 20 March Joanne Kinsley & Jane Maroulis
- Wednesday 25 March Serena Nunns & Sharon Hill
- Friday 27 March Natalie Barnett & Kimberlee Booth

Tucker Box & P&C News

P&C meeting
Friday 20th March
10.00am
All welcome!

Come and meet your new P&C Representatives

P&C President: Mrs Jane Maroulis
Vice Presidents: Mrs Tracy Merchant & Mrs Sharon Hill
Secretary: Mrs Bec Marsh
Treasurer: Mrs Katherine Hodges

Your Children Will Be Proud Of It.
Get Involved. Be In The Know
The Children Will Benefit From It.
Meet New Friends!!
Many Hands Make Light Work.
You'll Feel Good About It.

Congratulations to Tillie Parish who was awarded the CWA Phillip Group Scholarship. Tillie was presented with her cheque and certificate at the school assembly by Mrs Robyn Thornton from Gresford CWA group.



Just a gentle reminder:

All visitors to the school and classrooms **MUST** sign in at the school office first. This is a departmental and WHS requirement.

Adults and children are **not** to use the driveways when dropping off or collecting students. Please make sure you access the school via walkways.

It's Here!!!!

Have you downloaded our School app yet?

Never miss important school information again!

- ✓ Events
- ✓ Notices
- ✓ Instant school messages
- ✓ Absentee
- ✓ Newsletters
- ✓ Permission Slips



Simple free download. In Google Play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose our school once installed.

Harmony Day Friday 20th March

This is a National day of increasing multicultural awareness and respect across Australia. Students are welcome to dress in the traditional costume of a particular country for the day. A dress code applies: no vest-tops and no toy weapons. Enclosed shoes must be worn. At the whole school assembly at 10.30am a guest speaker will present on a culture of interest. All welcome!

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!***



Woof!

wednesday

is School Banking day.

School banking has started and has been well supported the last couple of weeks. Keep up the good work everyone! If you would like a information banking package please come to the office or ring Nicole on 4938 9304.

Last week a note went home about
School Photos.

Please read and follow the easy steps. If you did not receive one from your child please come to the office and we will give you another copy.

Put this date in your diary -

Photo Day
is
Tuesday
24th
March 2020

New England Dance Camp

Expressions of interest are open for the New England Dance Camp from **5 to 9 April 2020** at **Lake Keepit Sport and Recreation Camp, Gunnedah NSW**.

Students from Years 5-12 have the opportunity to extend their abilities in a range of dance styles with the support of industry professionals and expert teachers. The residential camp will cater for beginner to advanced levels and aims to develop students' performance and composition skills. Rural and regional students are encouraged to apply.

Students participating in New England Dance Camp will form specialist dance ensembles to perform at the regional festival. These ensembles can also apply for the State Dance Festival.

Please indicate your interest via the following Google form, https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XZmMmmW_sGHe_jeOLyulpFYLxX6x8Fy17IiaRZ-aDU8/edit

Expressions of interest are due 5:00pm, Monday 16 March 2020.

Cost: \$440 (including food and accommodation, GST-inclusive)

For further information, please contact Di Hall Email:

di.c.hall@det.nsw.edu.au

Water Watch Whole School Excursion

Our K-6 students enjoyed their excursion to check on the health of our local rivers on Tuesday 25th February. Many thanks to Jane Lloyd-Jones and Amanda from Hunter Local Land Services at Tocal who helped students study and identify freshwater invertebrates and test water samples for temperature, pH, salinity and conductivity. Some sensitive species were found including a Stonefly nymph. The students were excited to see big freshwater shrimps and many of the other animals we have been studying in class. They learnt about river food webs and documented their trip with sketches, photography and film-making.

Our students behaved responsibly and demonstrated our PBL values.





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 2020 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	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.scorps.com.au Email: gresfordvacyfc@outlook.com

P & C Meet and Greet BBQ and Disco

A great night was had at the P&C Meet & Greet BBQ and Disco on Friday 21st February.

DJ Nathan had all the children dancing and laughing as the photos below show.

A big thank you to the P&C for putting on this fun filled event.



Helpful Homework Tips

FOR PARENTS

The following tips are a guide. Each student will have specific, individual needs that should be considered. Homework should be both manageable and meaningful. Most importantly, homework should be a positive, purposeful experience.

BEFORE

- Establish a routine time for homework, but remain flexible.
- Find your child a quiet place with minimal distractions to complete homework.
- Prepare resources and invest in a whiteboard for your child to use.
- Provide a snack, a drink of water and an opportunity for physical activity before starting homework.
- Create a special reading corner for exploring home readers.
- Provide younger siblings with an engaging, independent and age-appropriate task to avoid interruptions.

DURING

- Stay relaxed and calm.
- If your child finds it helpful, play calming background music.
- Avoid multitasking as much as possible: be completely present.
- Be a guide, rather than an instructor.
- Set and display a timer: an hourglass or sand timer is ideal.
- Be creative and make it fun!
- Reverse roles: encourage your child to test your spelling. Make purposeful mistakes for your child to correct.
- Give positive feedback: praise effort rather than outcome and avoid correcting every error.
- Use a positive reward system with a reward that motivates your child.

AFTER

- If homework is becoming unproductive, stop; try at another time.
- Inform the teacher if your child is unable to complete homework because they did not understand it.
- Stick to the time guidelines given by the class teacher or the school's homework policy.

 teachstarter

DID YOU KNOW?

Children's University

Maitland City Library branches are learning destinations for the Children's University. Our Holiday Fun activities and regular clubs, such as Lego and Role Play, are learning experiences validated by the [Children's University Newcastle](#).

Children can apply for a Learning Passport through their local school. Each time a learning experience is undertaken, children receive a stamp for the time spent learning. Children who undertake a minimum of 30 hours learning are eligible for a formal certificate from the University of Newcastle.

Check out the [Children's University](#) for more information and book into any of the Library's [Holiday Fun](#) and [other learning experiences](#)



YEAR 7 2021/2022 INFORMATION EVENING

DUNGOG HIGH
SCHOOL LIBRARY

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 11, 2020

5PM-7PM

PARENTS/CARERS AND PROSPECTIVE
STUDENTS FROM YEAR 5 AND 6 ARE VERY
WARMLY INVITED TO ATTEND OUR OPEN
NIGHT

ENROLMENT INFORMATION
GUIDED TOURS - MEET THE STAFF - BBQ

See you there!



TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos much in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. It's main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity to become the iOS store's most downloaded app with over 33 million downloads. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.



What parents need to know about

TIKTOK



MATURE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as 'Parental guidance recommended'. When signing up for the app, it's possible to lie about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are lighthearted or funny takes on dance routines which are designed to make people laugh. However there has been a slew of videos which have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and sexual content, including young teens dressing overtly sexually and behaving suggestively. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be quite common to come across explicit content on the 'for you' feed when logging into the platform.

INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-syncing and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the undeniably young user base, there is a risk that children may look to imitate the explicit language they hear or the suggestive actions they see when viewing other user's videos on the app.

TIKTOK FAME

TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as 'TikTok famous'. TikTok (and its predecessor musical.ly) has spawned its own celebrities - social media stars Loren Gray and Jacob Sartorius have been catapulted to fame through their initial exposure on the app. Obviously, most budding influencers looking to become the next big thing will be disappointed, but this may have the knock-on effect of making them go to more and more drastic lengths to get noticed.

ONLINE PREDATORS

As a social network, TikTok makes it easy to connect with other users. This includes the ability to comment on and react to other user's videos, follow their profile and download their content. Be aware that by default, any user can comment on your child's video if their account is set to public. Most interactions are harmless enough but as an app, TikTok is prone to predators because of the abundance of younger users.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Social media is designed to be addictive and TikTok is no different. It can be fun and hugely entertaining. However, it is also because of this that it can be hard to put down. In addition to the short, punchy nature of the looping video format, the app's ability to keep you guessing what will come on screen next makes it easy to turn a five-minute visit into 45-minute visit.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Aside from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app extras called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from £0.99 for 100 coins to an eye-watering £93.99 for 10,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different emojis to reward content creators that a user finds funny or entertaining. In the iOS version of the app you can disable the option to buy TikTok coins but this sadly doesn't seem to be a feature in the Android version.



Safety Tips For Parents

TALK ABOUT ONLINE DANGERS

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use the app, make sure you also take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have a dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour for them. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding of them. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.



USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media superstardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.



ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.



EXPLORE AND LEARN YOURSELF

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could then even use the app with your child and watch some videos with them. If you are the parent of a teen, even if it does not make you popular, keep a close eye on what they're viewing and sharing. That said, it's a brilliant chance to turn it into a bonding opportunity with your child also. You could even unleash your inner performer and make videos with them while (more importantly) keeping them safe online.



LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a safe space for your child to express themselves. However, just in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.



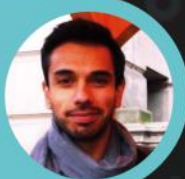
MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.



Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



NEW FOR 2020 FAMILY SAFETY MODE

TikTok Family Safety Mode allows parents to link their own TikTok account to their child's. It's a great way to oversee your child's digital wellbeing by giving you direct control over their safety settings and being able to remotely turn features on and off. This includes managing screen time, the ability to send and receive direct messages (and with whom) and the ability to restrict the appearance of content that might not be age appropriate.



SOURCES: www.tiktok.com

Updated information about COVID-19 (formerly referred to Novel Coronavirus) for schools to consider using when communicating with parents & caregivers

Dear parent or caregiver,

The NSW Department of Education is working closely with the NSW Ministry of Health in response to the unfolding international COVID-19 (formerly referred to as Novel Coronavirus) situation.

Further travel restriction

Effective 1 March 2020 the Federal Government has issued a travel ban on foreigners coming to Australia from Iran. Only Australian citizens and permanent residents coming from Iran will be allowed entry to Australia, and from 1 March they are required to self-isolate for a period of 14 days after departing Iran consistent with the restrictions for those entering from China. Additionally, Australians have been advised NOT to travel to Iran.

Updated advice from the NSW Government for parents and affected staff regarding COVID -19 is:

- Any student or staff member who has been in, or transited through, mainland China (not just Hubei province) or has been in Iran is excluded from work, school or child care services for 14 days from the date they left mainland China or Iran (as the COVID-19 incubation period can be as long as two weeks).
- Any confirmed case of COVID-19 will be excluded until they are medically cleared to return.
- Close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be excluded for 14 days since last contact with the confirmed case.
- Students and staff who have returned to Australia from mainland China or Iran more than 14 days ago and have shown no symptoms are able to return to school.

The NSW Ministry of Health has processes to identify any close contacts of cases confirmed in Australia. Advice about not attending school would be provided to these close contacts by the NSW Ministry of Health.

Consistent with current guidelines, students who are unwell with respiratory illness should remain at home until symptoms resolve. In accordance with the NSW Department of Education's current practice, if any student becomes unwell, the school will implement infection control guidelines and follow the advice provided by the NSW Ministry of Health as appropriate.

Maintaining good hygiene standards is an important way to reduce the risk of acquiring and spreading respiratory infections. Parents and caregivers are asked to promote good hygiene, including handwashing with soap as [handwashing](#) is the single most effective way to reduce the spread of germs that cause respiratory disease.

The NSW Ministry of Health has [advice and resources about COVID-19 in English](#) and [Chinese](#).

The NSW Department of Education will continue monitoring the COVID-19 situation and provide parents and caregivers with updated information about the virus.