



Dear Parents & Carers,

After the official retirement of Mrs Pauline Mitchell, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Ms Jody Kilpatrick as substantive principal of Gresford Public School.

Jody has been a highly regarded and well experienced principal at Boomi Public School, in the Barwon Network, and comes with a raft of skills that will enhance the operation of Gresford Public School.

Ms Kilpatrick has been appointed in line with the department's incentive transfer scheme and will start at Gresford Public School on 27 April 2020 (Day one Term Two). It is anticipated she will visit Gresford Public School before the end of term.

I also take this opportunity to thank Mrs Michelle Crowfoot for her enthusiasm and hard work whilst relieving principal during Term 1. She has established strong relationships across the school community and has had a positive impact on all of the students in the school. I wish her all the very best in her future.

I will be attending the P and C Meeting tomorrow morning if there are any questions about the incentive transfer system.

Yours sincerely

John Millburn
DIRECTOR, EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP
HUNTER PRINCIPAL NETWORK

19 March 2020





Gresford Public School

Newsletter Term 1

Week 8

19th March 2020

Principal's message

Hi everyone!

I am sure for many of you, you are feeling a little bit like you are living in a Steven Spielberg Sci-Fi movie at the moment. The new buzz words are COVID-19, Coronavirus, unprecedented and toilet paper! Who would have thought toilet paper would become the precious commodity that it is!

I am receiving daily updates, directives and notifications regarding COVID-19 and as much as possible we will keep you informed without trying to overwhelm everyone at the same time.

The bottom line is this:

- ◆ Any child who exhibits cold/flu like symptoms must not attend school until they are no longer unwell and/or have been cleared by a healthcare provider. Please contact the school to advise us of the situation with your child. The child will be marked as an explained sick leave.
- ◆ Any child who presents to school with cold/flu like symptoms will be directed to the sick bay and parents will be contacted. The above will apply to their return.
- ◆ Any child who is directed to self-isolate by a healthcare provider is required to follow all procedures as per self-isolation. This means remaining indoors, social distancing etc. A student will be unable to return to school until cleared by their healthcare provider. Parents are advised to forward a medical certificate stating the above to the school. Students will be noted as explained leave for the duration of the medical certificate.
- ◆ If a parent chooses to self-isolate or have their child take leave without just reason (presenting with illness, pre-existing medical condition, other unrelated illness, family emergency etc) they will be noted as unjustified. A child with an extended period of leave (3 days or more) that has not contacted the school or provided just reason for their child's absence may become notifiable to the Home School Liaison Officer.
- ◆ A child who has been in contact with an individual who has recently travelled and returned from overseas must not attend school for a period of 14 days and seek medical attention. The student will be allowed to return once they have been identified as not having COVID-19.

For all students it is business as usual. All classes are operating lessons as normal but with enhanced hygiene practices and procedures. Use of bubblers is suspended and children are asked to bring a drink bottle to school for use. These can be refilled during the day. If a child forgets a drink bottle we have plastic cups available which are put through our dishwasher at the end of the day.

We are grateful to all of our parents and carers for restricting your attendance at the school. As much as possible we are aiming to maintain a safe and healthy environment for our students and staff.

If you braved the weather on Saturday to attend the Gresford Show you would have been as impressed as I was with the way in which the organisers put together a fabulous event. The exhibits were fantastic and congratulations to all of our students on your efforts regardless of whether you were a prize winner or not – you are all winners in my eyes!

A big thanks to Mrs Dillon for her wonderful organisation of the students here at GPS for the Gresford show. Our school is incredibly lucky to have such dedicated individuals as Mrs Dillon supporting both the school, students and community.

On a final note, I met with Mr John Millburn yesterday and he announced to our staff that the Principal position for Mrs Mitchell has been filled via a transfer. This means that in Term 2, we will be welcoming Ms Jody Kilpatrick, an experienced Principal who has been teaching at Boomi Public School for a number of years. I know you will all welcome with us Ms Kilpatrick.

Have a wonderful week everyone – stay well ☺

Kind regards,

Mrs Crowfoot
Relieving Principal



4938 9304



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



SCHOOL MERITS

Elsie Howard, Jake Osmond, Zoe Watters, William Venter, Marley Spencer, Cherry Ropata, Bridie Booth, Lucia Merchant

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Harrison Wells, John Hodges, Cooper Chesworth, Layla Turnbull, Sebastian Redhouse, Isaac Houston, Chilli Bynon, Kammi Conn

PBL AWARDS

Kobi Bytheway, Amelia Crow, Benji Spencer, Nate Turner, Jaxson Kleinschafer, Egidy Temba, Ethan Crouch

LIBRARY AWARDS

Bailey Caukwell, Monica Lawrence

GOOD LISTENER AWARDS

Brodie Monger

SPORTS AWARDS

Oliver Booth, Otaki Ropata, Chelsea Crow, Jack Ramm, Bailey Garaty, Nina Maroulis, Charli Barnett, Bella Sellens

MARCH

Fri 20 - P&C meeting 9.00am

- Harmony Day -

NO ASSEMBLY

Tue 24 - School Photos

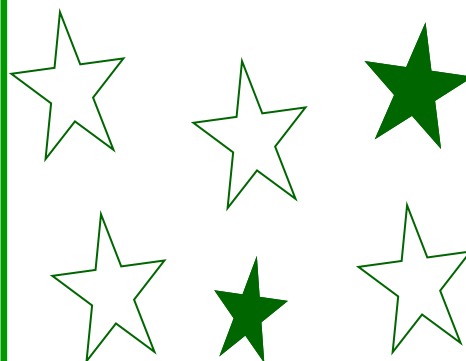
APRIL

Thu 9 - Last day for Term 1

Fri 10 - Good Friday

Mon 27 - Staff Development Day

Tue 28 - All students return for Term 2



CANTEEN ROSTER

Please note:

There will be

NO

**CANTEEN
UNTIL
FURTHER
NOTICE**



Tucker Box & P&C News

Please note new venue & time:

P&C

meeting

Friday 20th March

at the

Twin Rivers Cafe

9.00am

All welcome!





Photo Day
is next
Tuesday
24th
March
2020

Student Absences

In this trying time it is asked that parents notify the school if their child is going to be absent. At the moment your child should only stay at home if they have a cough, feeling unwell or have been in contact with someone who has travelled overseas. We thank you for your understanding in this matter.



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. Due to restrictions no parents are allowed to attend this event. We thank you for your understanding.

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!***

Parents Please note:

Notice from CommBank School Banking

The health, safety and wellbeing of our communities and our people is our first priority. Due to the rapidly developing situation with coronavirus, School Banking has been temporarily paused from **20 March 2020** until the start of **Term 2**.

Please don't bring your deposit book with your weekly banking into school and we will notify you when banking will recommence.



Gresford Show

Children enjoyed visiting the Gresford Show last Friday.



SCIENCE IN SCHOOL

Our students have been enjoying the fortnightly Scientists in Schools program with Dr Lesley Wright who prepares some amazing experiments for our classes. This week we were classifying animals using keys, looking at protists and invertebrates under microscopes and investigating how animals walk on water and breathe oxygen through tail snorkels. All very fascinating. Thank you Dr Wright.



Coronavirus (COVID -19)

Information for parents and carers to support children and young people

How you can support your child

It is perfectly normal for children to have questions about events that are covered in the media, such as the information currently being distributed about COVID-19. Children look to the significant adults in their lives for guidance on how to manage their reactions and you can help your child by remaining calm and reassuring them.

There is a common misunderstanding that talking with your child about a topic such as COVID-19 may increase their anxiety. This is not the case. It is important to listen to your child and answer their questions as honestly as possible and correct any misunderstandings. This will help them feel informed and understand what is happening.

Keeping up to date with the facts from reliable sources will help keep conversations calm, considered, and constructive. Provide information in words that are appropriate to the age of your child.

Children can be distressed by hearing repeated stories so monitor how much your child is being exposed to television and social media and encourage them to talk to you about what they are seeing and hearing.

Some practical advice

Some practical advice for your child includes reminding them to cover their nose and mouth when they cough or sneeze (coughing into their elbow is a useful strategy), keep their hands clean by washing them regularly with soap and water, and avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth before washing their hands. These are easy habits for children to adopt, and should help them feel as though they're able to exert some control over their circumstances.

If your child must stay at home, it is important for your child to maintain a healthy lifestyle including proper diet, sleep, and social contact at home and by email and phone with family and friends

Communication is important

- read [the department's response to COVID-19](#) for current information
- read any information sent home by the school.

- contact the school if your child becomes unwell.

Where to get help

Contact the school if you are concerned about your child's wellbeing to discuss the most appropriate support. Support is also available through a number of agencies and community organisations. Parents and carers can:

- call the National Coronavirus Health Information line (1800 020 080)
- review the [NSW Health](#) COVID-19 website for the latest information and advice
- obtain help and information from the local General Practitioner or Community Health Centre

If you would like additional support, the following services are available

- The school counselling service
- Kids Helpline – 1800 55 1800 – kidshelpline.com.au
- Headspace – 1800 650 890 – eheadspace.org.au
- Parent Helpline – 1300 1300 52
- Beyond Blue – 1300 22 4636
- Lifeline – 13 11 14