



# The Galston Gumnut

Galston Public School Newsletter

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Phone: 9653 2062 Fax: 9653 1980

Email: [galston-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:galston-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

Website: [www.galston-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.galston-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)



*Respect*

*Responsibility*

*Personal Best*

Week 5, Term 2

## Calendar Dates

### Week 5, Term 2

- Students resume face to face learning 5 days a week
- Laptops and iPads returned to school (with chargers if borrowed)
- Student led virtual assembly viewed in all classrooms
- Revised playground duty roster and bell times implemented for the remainder of Term 2

### Week 6, Term 2

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June

Homework resumes for students in Years 1 – 6.

## *From the Principal*

Welcome back to 5 days a week face to face learning! This week has seen the vast majority of our students transition back to normal school routines and our teachers/support staff have been thrilled to have them back. Ours is a people profession, and to be able to reconnect with the GPS children face to face has been wonderful. Throughout the one mode of learning from home, our teachers have worked extremely hard to maintain and strengthen that connection via phone, Teams and other forms of technology, but this period has also highlighted how much we miss the human element of teaching without the children in our classrooms. As we settle back into our daily school routines, some updates for the weeks ahead...

### **Changes to Routine – Playground duty times/roster**

Beginning this week, we will be implementing a new playground duty roster and break schedule for the remainder of the term. Classroom learning and break times will be as outlined below:

8:30am - Morning teacher on duty  
 8:55am to 10:55am - Learning time  
 10:55am to 11:05am - Recess eating time  
 11:05am to 11:25am - Recess play time  
 11:25am to 1:15pm - Learning time  
 1:15pm to 1:30pm - Lunch eating time  
 1:30pm to 2pm - Lunch play time  
 2pm – 3pm Learning time

As the safety and wellbeing of all students is a priority, this change will allow increased supervision in the playground, while also allowing our children to spend more time spread out on grassed areas, where they will be able to run and play at both recess and lunch.

Towards the end of the term, we will be seeking feedback from parents, students and staff regarding these changes and how we can further improve our play/supervision structures as a school learning community.

### **Teacher Readings**

In order to connect with our children whilst in isolation, teachers at Galston PS have been videoing themselves reading a story for our students K-6 to view from home. From Kindergarten to Year 6, this is a fun way for our children to connect with a familiar face, while at the same time continuing their enjoyment of literature and sharing a laugh!

In advance, we would like to thank the publishers, authors and illustrators of these books, who have generously made the videoing and sharing of these stories possible by giving special copyright permission.

Our stories can be accessed via the secure links below

*The Dinky Donkey* (Mr Ison)  
*The Very Cranky Bear* (Miss Sundin)  
*Do Your Ears Hang Low?* (Miss McCrae)  
*Macca the Alpaca* (Mrs Pendharkar)  
*Hairy MacLary* (Mrs Muscat)  
*Thelma the Unicorn* (Mrs Morgan)

<https://youtu.be/DBN4h1Bwf08>  
<https://youtu.be/5larFAvQr0s>  
<https://youtu.be/3jwT6apgalg>  
<https://youtu.be/hd24y6G4vXU>  
<https://youtu.be/kokFKFcrHZ8>  
<https://youtu.be/Z21-a3ih5iw>

### **Student Led Virtual Assembly**

Over the past two weeks, our student leaders (Myffy, Caitlan, Jack and Jordan) have worked tirelessly with the help of Mrs Payne and Mrs Muscat to produce a virtual assembly for our students K-6. We are extremely proud of the effort these students have put into developing this assembly, from the planning stage right through to production! All students K-6 have been engaged with this assembly in their classrooms, however the link can be accessed below if families would like to share in this valuable connection for our students. Part of the fun was the teacher item with a bit of a mad hatter theme!

<https://youtu.be/xa3rRnalcY>

### **Tree Removal**

In the coming weeks, a number of large liquid amber trees behind the 3-4F classroom, K-1B classroom as well as a coral tree in the old chook pen will be professionally removed for safety reasons. Over the past 12 months, a number of visitors and staff have had slip incidents on the seed pods that these trees produce. We have also had a number of limbs down during storms, and the positioning of these trees close to classrooms poses a significant risk to classrooms, but most importantly our children.

As these trees are removed and we are eventually allowed to have visitors on site, have your shovels and wheelbarrows ready to move the mountains of mulch these trees will leave behind into our gardens as we begin our working bees!

### **Building maintenance updates**

Over the past few weeks, our basketball backboards have been replaced, providing a vast improvement to the playing facilities on offer for our students. Mr Victor is busy repainting the hoops, and will be proudly unveiling the netting to complete the look for our basketball enthusiasts in the near future. What a difference a small change makes!



In order to maintain accessibility for all our students, we will also be completing some more work on ramps and covered walkways in the first half of June. Our main entrance to the office, as well as the pathway from the disabled carpark, past the main building and hall will be the areas where this work will be completed. This work will provide increased all weather access from the carpark to the playground, as well as increased accessibility to the main office foyer for all students and visitors to our wonderful school.

As always, safety of our students while this work is being completed will be a priority and there will be appropriate measures taken by the tradespeople on site. Many thanks in advance for yours and the children's patience while this work is carried out.

### **Kindergarten 2021**

If you or anyone you know has children who will be enrolling in Kindergarten in 2021, we are now accepting enrolment enquiries, applications and completed enrolment forms!

As you may be aware, the Department of Education updated the enrolment policy for all NSW public schools towards the end of 2019. For those schools over their allocated cap of students, out of area applications will not be accepted, except in extraordinary circumstances.

As Galston Public School is currently over cap, priority will be given to students from our local drawing area. At this stage, we are also able to accept siblings of students who currently attend our school and live out of area. If you or families you know are unsure if you are in the GPS drawing area, please enquire at the front office, or check your address using the school finder link below:

<https://my.education.nsw.gov.au/school-finder>

### **Drop off and pick up**

Since beginning the phased return to school and now that we are back to 5 days a week face to face, we have been asking parents to limit the amount of time spent on site to a minimum. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families for respecting this request, as it greatly helps minimise risk of infection for our students and staff.



During the morning drop off and afternoon pickup, please be mindful of the need to kiss and drop from the School Road entry. We have been opening the gates at the rear entrance to the school (near KU preschool), as well as those on Arcadia Road. As there is more parking accessible on Arcadia Road, and to avoid all students entering and leaving via the same gate, I would encourage families (particularly with older students) to meet at one of these entrances if possible. This is also a far better option should you need to wait with your car in the morning or afternoon for any reason.

Thank you for your patience and kindness to other families during this period. As a school community, we can't wait to be able to welcome all our families on site again not only for learning activities, but for the valuable role of networking and socialising that makes our school so special.

*Allan Ison*

## *P&C News*

### **Welcome back**

On behalf of the P&C I welcome our students back to full-time learning. While we are still moving through uncharted territory, I think both parents/carers and students are glad to be back to some kind of normality!

### **June P&C Meeting**

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June. As schools will still be minimising parent/carer presence on site at this time, the meeting will again be held via Zoom. A link enabling access to the meeting will be sent out by the P&C closer to the meeting date. Put the date in your diary and please join us if you can from the comfort of your own home to hear some updates regarding fundraising activities and our uniform shop.

### **School Drop off**

A reminder to parents/carers that the front of the school at morning drop off between 8am and 9:30am is Kiss and Drop ONLY. Please assist students with their bags quickly and get back into your vehicle to move on. Do not leave your vehicle under any circumstances. I know as parents we are seeing our parent friends as well; but please arrange to have a quick chat somewhere other than in the Kiss and Drop zone.

Kim Alsdorf – P&C President, [kim@galstonpandc.org.au](mailto:kim@galstonpandc.org.au)



# Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop will be filling uniform orders placed through Flexischools weekly. If you do not have a Flexischools account, please contact the Uniform Shop so that other arrangements can be made. Orders will be packed and sent home with students at the start and end of each week.

Any enquiries please contact us via [uniformshop@galstonpandc.org.au](mailto:uniformshop@galstonpandc.org.au).

Kristie Chambers and Belinda Crofts – *Uniform Shop Coordinators*

## Canteen News

Due to the staggered student return and the difficulties of rostering and managing the social distancing of volunteers, the Canteen will remain closed during Term 2. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause to parents, and we will update parents as soon as we are able to regarding the date of reopening.

Louise O'Rourke – *Canteen Committee*

### Catholic SRE Message

The Catholic Parish of St Benedict's Arcadia sends its best wishes to the children, families, and staff of Galston Public School community. Simple to follow **Catholic SRE lessons** are available online at the following link: [Catholic SRE Online](#)

### Ethics lessons available for K – 6 students and their families

Primary Ethics has created a series of 10 lessons each for K-2 and 3-6 to help children practise their skills in critical thinking and ethical reasoning as they continue their mixed learning methods during term 2. These age-appropriate lessons are available from [primaryethics.com.au/education](http://primaryethics.com.au/education)

**School Zone Road Safety 2019**  
Remember! Road safety starts with you!

**SCHOOL ZONE**  
8-9am  
2.30-4pm  
SCHOOL DAYS  
40

**School is back!**  
Here are some safety tips for driving and parking within school zones, as well as road rule information to help keep you and your children safe.

**Driving Safety**

- Check all passengers are buckled up.
- Stick to the 40km/h speed limit.
- Always look out for pedestrians, especially at crossings and intersections.
- Avoid U-turns and three-point turns within the school zone.
- Look for buses pulling out and always pass a bus with flashing orange lights at 40km/h.

**Drop-off and Pick-up Time**  
If you are able to drop your children off quickly, consider using a No Parking or Kiss & Drop zone or drop them further down the road a bit and let them walk to the gate.

**How to use a No Parking zone**  
A No Parking zone is a drop-off, pick-up location. Remember:

- You can stop for a maximum of two minutes in the zone.
- The driver must remain within three metres of their vehicle.
- The driver must not leave their vehicle unattended.

**Parking Tips**

- Always follow the road rules. Remember, road rules around schools are there to keep you and your children safe.
- If possible, make sure children exit your vehicle on the footpath-side or verge side when getting in and out of the car.
- Never stop on a pedestrian crossing or double park as you will obstruct sight lines for other drivers and pedestrians, which puts others at risk.
- Park safely, even if it means walking further to the school gate to drop-off or pick-up your child. It's a great way to connect with your child before and after school (away from screens).
- Pick your children up five to ten minutes after the bell in the afternoon, to avoid the most congested period. Ask them to wait inside the school gate for safety.
- If you park across the road, walk over to meet your child. Never call them across the road to you.

**Child Car Seats**  
It is important your child is restrained in the correct child car seat for their age and size:

- It is recommended to keep older children in a booster seat until they are at least 145cm in height.
- A child that is correctly secured in an approved child car seat is less likely to be killed or injured in a crash than one who is not.

**No Stopping and Bus Zones**  
Never stop in a No Stopping zone as you will obstruct sight lines for other drivers and pedestrians, which puts others at risk. Bus Zones are purely for the use of commercial buses and no other vehicles. See over the page for parking offences and fines around schools.

**Walking to School**  
Plan your trip to school and use safe crossing locations if possible. Always hold your child's hand as they need help to spot dangers such as vehicles exiting driveways.

**Model safe and considerate behaviour for your child - they learn from you!**

A road safety initiative from Hornsby Shire Council



## Parking and traffic rules in school zones

You need to take extra care when driving and parking in school zones. Make sure that you and your child understand the road rules. If you break the traffic rules in a school zone you are putting not only your child but other children at risk. The parking and traffic rules around our schools are there to protect your children. If you break the rules you will be fined. **Please choose safety over convenience.**

| QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO IMPORTANT SAFETY TRAFFIC RULES |  |   |                         |                           |
|---|--|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| ZONE  | WHAT DOES IT MEAN?   | WHY IS IT THERE?  | PENALTY                 | DEMERIT POINTS*           |
|   | You cannot stop in a <b>NO STOPPING</b> zone for any reason (including queuing or waiting for a space).  | Keeps clear sight lines between drivers and children / pedestrians.                     | EXCEEDS<br><b>\$337</b> | (School Zone)<br><b>2</b> |
|   | You can stop in a <b>NO PARKING</b> zone for a max. of two minutes to drop off and pick up passengers. If no spaces are available you cannot queue on the roadway or in any other zones while waiting for a space. You will need to drive away and park elsewhere, only returning when there is space to pull up. You must stay within 3 metres of your vehicle at all times and cannot leave your vehicle unattended. | Provides a safe place for children / pedestrian set down and pick up.                   | EXCEEDS<br><b>\$187</b> | (School Zone)<br><b>2</b> |
|   | You must not stop or park in a <b>BUS ZONE</b> for any reason (including queuing or waiting for a space) unless you are driving a bus. If times are shown on the sign, you are not allowed to stop during those times.   | Provides a safe place for large buses to set down and pick up school children.          | EXCEEDS<br><b>\$337</b> | (School Zone)<br><b>2</b> |
|   | You must not stop on or within 20 metres before a <b>PEDESTRIAN CROSSING</b> or 10 metres after a crossing unless there is a control sign permitting parking.  | So drivers can clearly see pedestrians on the crossing.                                 | EXCEEDS<br><b>\$448</b> | (School Zone)<br><b>2</b> |
|   | <b>DOUBLE PARKING</b><br>You must not stop on the road adjacent to another vehicle at any time even to drop off or pick up passengers.   | Double parking blocks visibility and forces other cars to go around you.                | EXCEEDS<br><b>\$337</b> | (School Zone)<br><b>2</b> |
|   | You must not stop on any <b>FOOTPATH or NATURE STRIP</b> , or even a <b>DRIVEWAY</b> crossing a footpath or nature strip for any reason.   | You could easily run over a child or force pedestrians onto the road to get around you. | EXCEEDS<br><b>\$337</b> | (School Zone)<br><b>2</b> |

Please note: The above information is current as of 1 July 2018. Penalties set by NSW State Government and reviewed on 1 July each year.

