

From the Principal

The start of the 2020 school year has been very successful with students learning all about new routines and expectations but also being able to get started on the curriculum work straight away. We have welcomed some new staff and many new students. I am extremely proud of the work staff have done to ensure our focus on respect coupled with high expectations has continued from last year and that all of our new school community members have benefited from our positive culture so quickly.

Staffing

As far as new staff go, this year we welcome;

Ms Chelsea Hahn who is teaching a year 3/4 class in room 1. Ms Hahn previously taught at Hewett Primary School and as a part time teacher at Mallala Primary School,

Ms Stephanie Hamdorf who is teaching a year 2 class in room 13. Stephanie is a graduate teacher and returns to Gawler East Primary School after completing her 3rd year professional experience here in 2018,

Mr John Slattery who has a year 4/5 class in room 16. Mr Slattery is

also a graduate teacher who impressed us last year with his dedication and skill as a relief teacher.

Ms Kelly Vermeulen is working across rooms 3 and 4 in term 1. Ms Vermeulen is teaching in Mrs Matcham's class on Wednesdays and Mrs Varcoe's class on Thursdays and Fridays. Kelly is also familiar to us from her relief teacher work at the school.

All graduate teachers are entitled to additional time to plan, programme and assess plus get extra support. As you can understand, there is a lot to learn in your first year as a classroom teacher. Ms Maria Stogiannos is working 1 day a week to provide this additional release time for our two graduate teachers. Ms Stogiannos has also worked here previously as a relief teacher.

Finally in staffing news, Adele White is currently on leave and Pam Grigg has been appointed as her replacement until she returns in a few weeks.

We also welcome nearly 90 new students and their families this year. I wish all of you the very best and I can assure you we will be

doing our utmost to support every student to achieve the best results possible in a caring, respectful environment.

Appointments with Leaders

As we currently have over 470 students enrolled at the school, I'm sure you would understand that leaders are very busy with various duties. I'm sure I speak for all leaders when I say that we often wish sleep was optional. We strive to make ourselves available to speak with parents about issues that arise from time to time but I'd like to ask that should you wish to meet with one us please contact the school first and Jayne can book an appointment. Thank you for your understanding in this matter. Also, please keep in mind that most issues can be raised with the class teacher first.

Enjoy term 1 and I look forward to seeing you all around the school.

Kind regards

ALEC TIBBITTS

Diary Dates

Wednesday, 19th February
Last day for payment for JP Swimming

Monday, 24th February
JP Swimming Week begins

Thursday, 5th March
School Photo Day

Friday, 6th March
Pupil Free Day

Wednesday, 11th March
Last day for payment for MP Swimming

Thursday 9th April
Last Day of Term
2:05 dismissal

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At today's assembly students presented (L-R) Michael, Lachlan and Steve from Concordia CFS a donation of over \$800 that students and staff have raised this term.

Steve said that it would help them get some much needed equipment as quickly as possible, including a generator and hoses that had been damaged by the recent fires.

Many of our students felt compelled to write letters and cards to show their appreciation.



Student Wellbeing Leader

As parents and carers, you know that your child's success at school is linked to their wellbeing. Wellbeing and learning go hand in hand. When your child feels connected to their family, peers and teachers they feel secure in the knowledge that they will be supported throughout their learning journey.

As we know, students may sometimes need support to develop and maintain this connectedness. This is where my role is important. I will work with students and families in many areas, one of which is ensuring students have regular attendance. I will also work on providing a platform for student voice to be heard. In some cases, I will run short term programs for students who require support to develop particular social and emotional skills.

Student wellbeing is the responsibility of our whole school community. We all have a part to play in the development of all of the children in our community. I am looking forward to working with students, parents, carers, teachers and the wider school community over the next 4 years.

Spotlight on Staff

Take a moment to get to know a few of our staff members each fortnight. This fortnight, I'd like to introduce you to Arnold Zuppa and Coleen Jaensch.

Name: Arnold Zuppa

Role in 2020: 6/7 teacher

Room Number: 19

Family Members: Mum, Dad and 2 older siblings

Pets: 2 awesome rottweilers – Enzo and Otis

What really annoys you?: Bad drivers!

If you had one extra hour in the day, how would you use it?: I think I'd like to read a bit more.

What do you love the most about your job?: I love the people I work with everyday (adults and the children) as they all manage to make me smile one way or the other.



Name: Coleen Jaensch

Role in 2020: SSO

Room Number: Many classrooms across the school

Family Members: Husband, 2 sons and 2 daughters

Pets: Kransky the dachshund

I like to relax by: Kayaking on the water

What animal are you most like?: Probably a cheetah because I like to get things done quickly.



Photo removed for internet publication

Curriculum Corner ...

Welcome to 2020! School is a busy place and there are lots of new faces experiencing this already! GEPS is a friendly and inclusive school and we are delighted to see new families being part of our learning journey.

Staff have been planning and programming learning tasks that involve challenge and rigour and students are starting to experience this.

Our School Improvement Plan is a document that keeps us focussed on priorities in the early, middle and upper years. Targets are set for 2020 are going to keep us on track for increasing student achievement. Early Years focus is Reading with a deep learning about how to use explicit instruction in Jolly Phonics. Middle and upper years are continuing to challenge and improve Numeracy. We have seen growth in NAPLAN

results, so we aim to strengthen this trend.

Crossing Monitors 2020

We have a large group of students who have volunteered and been trained to be crossing monitors. They are doing a fantastic job and for some of them this is their first time. I ask that we all follow their instructions at the crossing and that if you are driving that you also obey their commands. Please don't instruct them to put the signs up from your car if you are driving. It is up to them to decide when it is suitable to put the Stop signs up even if you think it is clear on the road. Also please be patient and alert as some are still learning and practising this skill.

Lost Property

Lost property will be situated in the Resource Centre. Shellie Whild, our Resource Centre

Manager, will be very happy to help parents when looking for items. If items are labelled, we will return to your child's classroom as the first step. This helps centralise and keeps systems efficient.

Looking forward to a busy year filled with many opportunities for your family to grow and be successful in learning.

Until next time.

Leah Searle
Senior Leader - Curriculum

PE News

The Port Adelaide Football Club will be sending players to visit our school to run a whole school assembly next Tuesday as part of the Power Community Youth Program.

Port Adelaide Football Club players and staff will be delivering a session about AFL pathways, training schedules and living a healthy lifestyle, which aligns with the Health & P.E curriculum. After the presentation there will be an opportunity for students to ask any questions they may have.

Students that have Port Adelaide FC merchandise are welcome to bring it along to get signatures.

Stay tuned for photos in the next newsletter.

Jake Asher
P.E Teacher



Medication at School

Any medication required to be given at school must be notified via the Front Office. A Medication Agreement form will be provided and must be completed by a GP or Specialist. Staff are not able to administer medication unless this form is provided to us. Medication must be provided in original pharmacy packaging—clearly labelled.
Forms available on our website or Skoolbag.

Asthma Care Plans must be provided even if students keep their Ventolin for use themselves. Asthma medication will be kept in the class room by the Teacher if required (under supervision). School Ventolin is available for students at recess or lunch time if required (an Asthma Care Plan is needed).

If your child has a Non-specific health condition that requires additional care then a time must be made with the Principal to discuss the needs of the student and forms completed.

School Crossing

Week 3

Morning

Jayden Blackmore
Brooklyn Groch
Mariah Anderson

Afternoon

Brock Boyle
Cameron Smith
Declan Polkinghorne

Week 4

Morning

Mark Wasley
Kane Graetz
Brooklyn Groch

Afternoon

Chloe Rodgers
Kiara MacDonald
Ryan Ryles

Jody's News

Hello everyone,

Welcome back to school for 2020

Welcome back for 2020, I hope all had a refreshing start to the year. Unfortunately, as you are all aware, it was a difficult festive season and New Year for those affected by bushfires. I have been working as recovery chaplain with Disaster & Recovery Ministries and have seen first-hand all the work being done as well as the amazing 'bounce-back' abilities of many affected, some who have lost homes and/or businesses. For those who have contributed with a donation or assistance of some kind - a big thank you on behalf of those I have met.

Impact of Media coverage on children

With the wide coverage of the bushfires etc. over this holiday period, many families might find that this is starting to have a negative impact on their children. Some children might be talking about these events frequently, and/or asking lots of questions fearing these events are happening constantly around them. You may notice increased levels of anxiety or children expressing that they feel unsafe. If this is the case - **Emerging Minds, National Workforce Centre for Child Mental Health** has provided some suggestions that may help you respond to these needs.

This is a summary available from their website/ pdf entitled 'Traumatic events, the media and your child':

- *try to be there with your children when they are watching coverage of the event. This way you can talk to them about their fears and answer any questions they may have.*
- *speak to children about the event in language they will understand, and set limits on the amount of time that they are able to watch TV or internet coverage of the event*
- *explain to your children why you are doing this, that you don't want them to worry unnecessarily, and that adults are managing things*
- *provide alternative activities for your children to take them away from the media coverage, such as watching a different TV show or playing a game*
- *give your children information to help them to understand what's happened, why it's happened, how likely this is to happen to you and your family*
- *remind your children that while what's happening in the traumatic event is upsetting, there are also lots of good things happening in the world, though these don't always receive the same level of attention*
- *reassure your children that they're safe and that you're there to answer their questions*
- *provide support and comfort to them if they're upset or feeling unsafe"*

For a copy of the full pdf visit www.Emergingminds.com.au or email me. Other resources that you might find helpful are Kids helpline on 1800 55 1800 or kidshelpline.com.au who offer both support for children directly and advice for parents, or for older children (12 years and over) [headspace](http://www.headspace.com) at www.headspace.com. However, I am more than happy to chat with any child (or parent / caregiver) who would like some help or support around these or other matters. See below.

1:1 Chats and Jody's hours this term

My allocated hours this week are between 10 - 12 hours per week (apart from Week 10, starting Monday 30th March, as I will be on leave for one week). My regular days at school are Monday afternoons and all-day Thursdays.

An important part of my role is to make myself available to those who feel they need to talk whether they be young or the 'young at heart'. If you or a child you look after are in need of a 1:1 chat with me, please don't hesitate to contact me at school on 8255 0533 or email jody.byerley386@schools.sa.edu.au.

Looking forward to seeing you around the school this year,

Jody Chambers

Your PCW



GIRL GUIDES AUSTRALIA SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Do some cool stuff like

- * Make new friends
- * Outdoor activities
- * Crafts
- * Learn some really useful skills

You're Invited to ...
Come along and join in the fun at Gawler Girl Guides!

FREE COME AND TRY
for 3 nights during 2020
(girls aged 5—18)

Want to know more call
Win 0428 231 976 or Sue 0402 394 360
(annual fees are less than \$5 per week)

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