From the Principal

A warm welcome back to everyone returning or new to our wonderful school. It’s been terrific to catch up with so many parents in the first week of school and of course to have your children in class. We are looking forward to working with your children to help them grow and learn and to developing working partnerships with you.

A strong partnership between home and school helps children flourish. We aim to value add to what you do for your children by providing programs here at school that give them a chance to develop in 5 ways.

We want to add value to every child’s;

• sense of responsibility to the environment as an Eco citizen so that there is enough for all forever,
• Sense of responsibility to participate in Australia’s Democratic institutions, from government to local club or group,
• commitment to being a Healthy and Active citizen who can see their life’s full potential,
• creative spirit as a citizen who contributes to innovation and the arts by adding beauty, entertainment and colour to our world,
• academic development which in turn will allow them to participate as an Informed citizen, making responsible choices.

Attendance

Children must be at school every day that they’re not so sick that they can’t get out of bed. It’s your responsibility as a parent to have your child enrolled and regularly attending school. The Education Act allows for children to be absent for two reasons only:

• illness, supporting evidence may be required, for example a medical certificate;
• emergent family circumstances, not usually to extend beyond 3 days.

We promote good attendance specifically through our weekly class attendance award and 100% club. But we also know that children want to come to school when they can do the work required of them, when they can get along with others, and when they believe their teacher cares about them and their progress.

All absences must be explained by either a note, phone call or email. We send out letters if we’ve not heard from you as to why your child was absent and follow up with phone calls. If you are experiencing difficulty getting your child to school, please contact our Deputy Principal, Mr Forsyth-Stewart or myself.

Enrolment Numbers

While we have enrolled children new to our area, we’ve also had families move on to other parts of the North. Some classes are larger than we anticipated and others are still a bit smaller. If you know of anyone with children who have not yet returned, please encourage them to get in touch with us.

Cyclones

We’ll send a letter home in the next week or so to remind you about our procedures in the event that cyclones or severe weather disrupt school. The key message is that if you have
not heard the school is closed through either of the following sources, assume our school is open for business.

- Local ABC radio,
- A letter home from us,
- Our P&C Facebook page
- A message on our Gordonvale State School App
- The Far North Queensland Education Region website: http://farnorthqld.eq.edu.au/

Parking

Parking space is scarce most afternoons. The area at the front of the school is designated a drop off and pick up zone. It is not a parking area. According to signage, drivers are allowed to stop for up to 2 minutes to collect waiting passengers, or drop them off. Please observe the rules in this area so that everyone can move through to collect children in a reasonable time. If you need to park so that you can walk to your child’s classroom, please use designated parking areas around or near the school.

Welcome new staff

This year we welcome several new staff to Gordonvale State School.

Mr Damien Forsyth-Stewart – Deputy Principal

I have arrived from Edge Hill and Isabella State Schools previously. As an experienced Deputy Principal I arrive with the philosophy that I am a teacher of children. As a teacher I will deliver “lessons” on a range of academic key learning areas and behaviour topics. You will see me involved in the coaching of sporting teams. In the initial instance however, my first priority is to build relationships with the children at Gordonvale State School as well as with you, their Parents and Caregivers. In that regard I look forward to the next few weeks which will offer an opportunity to say “Hi”.

Mrs Di Drew – Head of Curriculum, Student Services

“My name is Ms Di Drew. I arrive at Gordonvale from the metropolis of Roma... for those of you who don’t know where this place is, you can find it six hours west as the crow flies from Brisbane. It is a small town of only 6000 people with the main industry being cattle. Ms Drew, swapped the bush for the beach and now lives in sunny North Queensland, more specifically Cairns. Not only am I fairly new to the area but I am also a new staff member for the 2016 school year at Gordonvale State School. My role at the school is Head of Curriculum-Diverse Learning. A major focus of this role is to oversee the support services within the school in regards to Special Needs and Learning Support. When I am not at school, I can be found exploring this lovely region with my toy poodle ‘Charlee’. She is a wonderful companion who has really taken to this new beach lifestyle. I am thrilled to be part of this school community and look forward to the opportunity of becoming part of the Gordonvale culture.”

Ms Susan Lee – Prep D

“Hi! I am a mother of four children and a granny to five grandchildren. I have recently moved to Cairns after five years on Mornington Island. My teaching experience includes six years abroad in South Korea and three years at Mornington Island State School. I also have a background in Visual Arts in a variety of capacities including studio manager at the Mornington Island Arts Centre. I am very excited to be teaching Prep D at Gordonvale State School and look forward to my time getting to know my students, colleagues and community.”

Ms Christine Bryant – 2C

Wow! My first few student free days have been amazing. I am thankful for the very inviting staff and great atmosphere I have experienced so far. A local myself, I have come to Gordonvale from Woree State School to ease the craziness that comes with taking teenagers to sport and work outside of school hours. I look forward to teaching at Gordonvale and in my own community and the place where I have family history.

Miss Kaitlin Trolvi – 4B

“Hi! My name is Kaitlin Trolvi and I am teaching Year 4B this year. I have lived in Gordonvale all my life and am looking forward to being a part of the school community this year.”

Miss Emina Serifovic – 4C

“I am very excited to be teaching Year 4C this year. I look forward to working with the students in my class and getting to know you all over the course of the year. I am originally from Sydney but have studied various courses at the University of Qld, Brisbane. Last year I taught in Mossman and had a fantastic time! My passions lie in the arts, cooking, animals and children! Please pop into our classroom (4C) and say hi! My door is open at any time should you have any questions!”

Ms Christine Reeves – 6B

“Hello Gordonvale, my name is Christine Reeves and I am very happy to be teaching in this beautiful Community. I was originally born and raised in NSW; however I have always been a QLD State of Origin supporter and look forward to our next win this year. I spent a number of years in NSW raising my now grown five children of one boy and two sets of twin girls. Two of my children also now
have children of their own so I am a very “young looking”
grandmother - I hope. I have had a varied background running a
cattle and sheep property in a small country town called Guyra
NSW and also an Accountant for over 15 years in QLD until I
pursued my passion of a teaching career. I have just spent a
number of years teaching in a remote community of QLD called
Doomadgee both as a secondary and a primary school teacher.
Before moving to Doomadgee, I lived on the beautiful Sunshine
Coast at Mooloolaba where a number of my children still live. I
look forward to my new adventure in Gordonvale teaching class
6B and meeting and being involved in the lovely community of
Gordonvale."

Mrs Michelle Moreno – History and Geography (part
time)

“My name is Michelle Moreno. I have two
young children and am returning to
teaching this year, after taking family leave. I
have lived in the Cairns area for 16 years
and previously taught years 4, 5 and 6 at
Parramatta State School. I am looking
forward to inspiring the students this year
through the teaching of History and
Geography.”

Leann O’Neill – 1A

“Hello! My name is Leann and I was
transferred to Gordonvale State School
from Dayboro. I was born and raised in
Mackay where my family still lives. I have
two dachshunds who take up my time
when I am home. Apart from spending time
with my family and playing with the dogs I
love to draw and paint and enjoy watching football. I am looking
forward to exploring the area and meeting new people.”

And, we also welcome back…

Mrs Sarah-Jane Noonan – 6C
Mrs Kristen Murphy – The Arts (part time)
Mrs Helen Wilkie – 2A (part time)

Parenting Articles

Each SCHOME I add a short article I hope you’ll find of interest. The
articles come from a publication, Parenting Insights, by
Michael Grose.

2016 Welcome Parade

Friday 5th February 2016
8:50am – 9:20am
Gordonvale State School Hall

At Gordonvale State School we welcome all new students
and parents to our school and those returning, at our annual
Welcome Parade. We induct our new school leaders and
introduce them to our school community and Uncle Saunders
Ambyrum will welcome us to country on behalf of the
Mulunburra Yidinji people.

The leader’s induction is a ceremony to celebrate our new
student leaders and wish them well in their roles throughout
2016. Special guests will congratulate them and present
badges.

Everyone is invited to attend – we’d love to see you there

Regards

Lloyd Perkins, Principal.

Deputy’s Desk

Thank you very much for the warm
welcome to Gordonvale State School and
the local community.

Upon arrival at a new school Deputy
Principals are often asked to provide a
brief spiel about themselves as an
introduction. This piece may differ to the
more regular communications I provide
throughout the year and it may also prove
the most difficult in so much as this
individual piece is centred on me and not
on your children, nor the wonderful events,
teaching and learning that will occur at Gordonvale State
School.

I have arrived from Edge Hill and Isabella State Schools
previously. As an experienced Deputy Principal I arrive with the
philosophy that I am a teacher of children. As a teacher I will
deliver “lessons” on a range of academic key learning areas and
behaviour topics. You will see me involved in the coaching of
sporting teams. In the initial instance however, my first priority
is to build relationships with the children at Gordonvale State
School as well as with you, their Parents and Caregivers. In that
regard I look forward to the next few weeks which will offer an
opportunity to say “Hi”.

I hope the first few weeks of the 2016 school year have begun
for you and your families in a sensational manner. I look forward
to catching up soon.
**School Bell Times**

### Prep to Year 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Bell Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:40am</td>
<td>First Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45am</td>
<td>Session 1 - Instruction commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:50am</td>
<td>Crunch &amp; Sip - Bottled water &amp; cut up pieces of fruit only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:50am</td>
<td>First Lunch - Students eat in their designated area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Play Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:25am</td>
<td>Warning Bell - Toilet, drink, tuckshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>End of play - Line up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:40am</td>
<td>Session 2 - Instruction commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:10pm</td>
<td>Second Lunch - Students eat in their designated area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:20pm</td>
<td>Play Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:40pm</td>
<td>End of play - Line up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:40pm</td>
<td>Session 3 - Instruction commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45pm</td>
<td>Instruction concludes - Students move to bus lines, parent pickup areas, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Year 4 to Year 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Bell Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:40am</td>
<td>First Bell</td>
</tr>
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<td>8:45am</td>
<td>Session 1 - Instruction commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Session 2 - Instruction commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:10pm</td>
<td>Play Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>Second Lunch - Students eat in their designated area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:40pm</td>
<td>End of play - Line up</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**GORDONVALE STATE SCHOOL**

### CRUNCH AND SIP

**Bottled water**

**Cut up pieces of fruit**

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### 2016 Queensland school year term dates


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**Welcome back students!!!**

Here is a look at your first week back at school for 2016.

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**First Day of Prep!!!**

Wow, what a great start to Prep! The Prep children have settled in well. We are all busy learning the procedures and rules of Gordonvale Primary School.

We have listened to stories, learnt about the letter “s”, the numeral one and practised writing our names. We are having lots of fun making new friends and getting to know our classmates.
It has been a fantastic first week with lots of learning and enjoyment. Looking forward to a great 2016!

Prep Hearing Screening

Wuchopperen Health Service will be conducting Hearing Health Screenings at Gordonvale State School for the Prep cohort Tuesday 2nd February & Thursday 4th February 2016. The purpose of the screening is to improve the early detection, prevention and management of otitis media and other hearing related illnesses. A consent form was sent home with all Prep students last Thursday and should have been returned to school yesterday. If you have not already done so please do or your child may miss out. The remainder of the school cohorts will be tested in November 2016.

Sports News

Welcome back to all students. This term is a busy term for all students in PE lessons.

Prep students will be improving their gross motor skill through running, hopping, jumping and galloping. Year One students will be improving their catching, throwing and balancing abilities by using different equipment like balls, bean bags, hoops, and balance beams. Year Two students will be developing their skipping skills using long and short ropes. Year Three students will be learning to ride a bike and the road rules. These students will need to bring a helmet to PE lessons. Please look out for a note with the details about this. Year 4 students are also skipping this term. They will be working on more skills with a short rope and long rope. Year Five students are developing their soccer skills. Year Six students are learning about the FITT principles and different exercises that are required. Can you please ensure that your child has a hat and water bottle for PE lessons as it is very hot.

Football Boots Wanted!!!

If you have any old or spare football boots in reasonable condition that you would like to donate to our school please drop them into the office. They will be used for the school Rugby League and AFL teams.

SAVE THE DATE

Week 9 - 24th March – School Cross Country

There are a number of Mulgrave Sports trials happening this term. If you would like your child to try out for the team please see the dates below. They will need to see Mrs Field for the paper work that is required to attend. These trials are for children born in 2006, 2005, 2004.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swimming 10 – 12yrs</td>
<td>Monday 8th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netball Girls 10 -12yrs</td>
<td>Thursday 18th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby League Boys 10 - 12yrs</td>
<td>Friday 19th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Football AFL 10 -12yrs</td>
<td>Friday 4th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football GIRLS 10 - 12yrs</td>
<td>Tuesday 8th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball 10 - 12yrs</td>
<td>Thursday 17th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football BOYS 10 - 12yrs</td>
<td>Friday 18th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball 12 - 14yrs</td>
<td>Wednesday 23rd March</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Instrumental Music News

WHY LEARN MUSIC

“Early musical training helps develop brain areas involved in language and reasoning. It is thought that brain development continues for many years after birth. Recent studies have clearly indicated that musical training physically develops the part of the left side of the brain known to be involved with processing language, and can actually wire the brain’s circuits in specific ways. Linking familiar songs to new information can also help imprint information on young minds.” - Children’s Music Workshop


The Instrumental Music Program is back again in 2016 ready to give the Gordonvale State School students a fun and interactive development in music. Students from Year 4
onwards will be given the opportunity to learn Brass and Woodwind instruments as well as Percussion and Strings. Congratulations to all those students who have already enrolled for the program, but it’s also not too late to be involved. There are still some instruments left that are not being used and we’d love to have someone on them. Unfortunately there are limited instruments to borrow, however, if you do miss out you can still be a part of the program if you can source your own instrument (borrow, buy, rent, loan).

For all expressions of interest please contact Mr Kelly Perger at kperg1@eq.edu.au

Our Very Own… Phantom of the Opera!!!

Miss Helen Newman, Music & Drama Teacher

“Congratulations Miss Newman!!! What an outstanding performance by Gordonvale State School’s very own Music & Drama Teacher!! We are so very proud of you and all of your accomplishments!”

Rehearsals for Phantom of the Opera began in October 2015 and continued throughout the Christmas break until the show opened on Friday 15th January 2016. A 12 performance season with the last performance held on Saturday 30th January 2016. What a busy bee our Miss Newman has been.

Miss Newman has been a member of the Cairns Choral Society since 1998 and this is the 10th Cairns Choral Society musical production she has performed in. She is a champion A Grade Soprano Soloist of North Queensland and a member of the current North Queensland A Grade Championship, Cairns Choral Society Choir. She has performed on stage as chorus and in lead roles as well as working backstage and assisting in set construction.

Miss Newman is a treasured member of our staff and she looks forward to teaching and sharing all of her wisdom with your children in music and drama class this year!

Tuckshop Talk

A warm welcome back to 2016!! The New Year brings with it a new Tuckshop Menu. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with all the yummy, healthy, wholesome food we have to offer this year.
P&C News

The Gordonvale State School P&C Association are a proud group of parents and community members who share a desire for Gordonvale State School to be a great place to learn. We are calling for additional members. Being a member of the P&C offers you a unique opportunity to be part of your child’s education and an important part of the School Community.

As a member you are invited to attend our monthly P&C meetings which are held at the school. Your commitment as a member can vary from occasional attendance at a meeting or helping out for a small amount of time at one of our events to regular attendance at the meetings or holding an executive committee position. All members receive a copy of the meeting minutes to help keep you in touch with what is happening in our school.

Below are the proposed dates of just some of our usual P&C events being held this year. Remember to mark them on your calendar!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Obstathon</td>
<td>Friday 11th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mothers’ Day Stall</td>
<td>Thursday 5th &amp; Friday 6th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fathers’ Day Stall</td>
<td>Thursday 1st &amp; Friday 2nd September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Stall</td>
<td>Thursday 1st &amp; Friday 2nd December</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2016 is also the year for the Gordonvale State School Fete. This is a huge event for the Gordonvale Community and traditionally is a successful fundraising event. If you have any experience as an event co-ordinator or if you are interested in participating in the organising committee, we would love to hear from you.

We would also like to extend a warm invitation for you to attend our first P&C meeting in 2016 which will be held on **Wednesday 17th February at 3pm in the Multi-Purpose Hall Computer Lab.**

We look forward to another eventful and successful year in 2016.

Regards

Yvette McGrath, P&C President 2015

Admin News

Spelling Mastery Books

Thank you to those families who have already purchased their Spelling Mastery Books. Spelling Mastery begins next week so if you are yet to purchase your books please do so at the office as soon as possible. Spelling Mastery books will only be issued once the entire amount is received.

New Website!!!

In 2016 Gordonvale State School will unveil a new website. Our current website will be upgraded through the Websites for Schools initiative, which will provide a streamlined website that is easy to navigate. The new website will integrate with other social media such as Facebook and Twitter. The new website will go live from **26th February 2016.** The current website will be available up until this date. Please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions.

Have you moved?

If you have recently moved or changed any of your contact details please update these changes with the office as soon as possible.

Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep Hearing Screening</td>
<td>2nd February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep Hearing Screening</td>
<td>4th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome Parade</td>
<td>5th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRL Development Cup <strong>Selection Day (10-12Yrs)</strong></td>
<td>5th February 3:00pm – 4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRL Development Cup <strong>Training (10-12Yrs)</strong></td>
<td>8th February 3:00pm – 4:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion commences</td>
<td>12th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Club due date Prep - Year2</td>
<td>12th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>ONLINE ORDERS ONLY</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grip Leadership Excursion (School Captains only)</td>
<td>12th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRL Development Cup <strong>Training (10-12Yrs)</strong></td>
<td>15th February 3:00pm – 4:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
<td>17th February Multi-Purpose Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redbank - Pyramid Estate Bus Conveyance Committee Meeting</td>
<td>18th February 6:30pm Multi-Purpose Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Club due date Year 3 – Year 6</td>
<td>19th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>ONLINE ORDERS ONLY</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NRL Development Cup Training (10-12Yrs)</strong></td>
<td>22nd February 3:00pm – 4:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Website Launch</strong></td>
<td>26th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NRL Development Cup Training (10-12Yrs)</strong></td>
<td>29th February 3:00pm – 4:30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Obstathon</td>
<td>11th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Cross Country</td>
<td>24th March</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Community Notices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Where</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southside Comets Soccer Sign On</td>
<td>6th February</td>
<td>Mt Sheridan Plaza Phone: 0422 408 882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10am – 2pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southside Comets Soccer Sign On</td>
<td>13th February</td>
<td>Petersen Park, Edmonton Phone: 0422 408 882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10am – 2pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well Women’s Clinics</td>
<td>15th February</td>
<td>Edmonton Community Health Phone: 4226 4900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Souths Football Club</td>
<td>13th February</td>
<td>Johnson Park, Gordonvale Phone: 0409 289 864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3pm – 5pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Souths Football Club</td>
<td>14th February</td>
<td>Johnson Park, Gordonvale Phone: 0409 289 864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3pm – 5pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## We want to hear from you

Your input as parents and carers of Gordonvale State School students is greatly valued. If you have any feedback or ideas on how we can communicate better with the Gordonvale State School community, or have a good news story to share, please contact Jo by email at jcuda4@eq.edu.au