

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2023

# GORDON NEWS

GORDON COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL'S NEWSLETTER  
HELPING US TO STAY CONNECTED



Photos from G3 - exploring rice as a sensory experience, music and movement using lycra ( a fun, cooperative group experience) and literacy learning with the 3 little pigs story.

## A WARM WELCOME TO GORDON COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL & TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER FOR THE YEAR!

Our newsletter - "The Gordonews", aims to keep you informed about what's happening at preschool, upcoming events, classroom news, as well as articles or information of interest.

in **this**  
issue

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Q & A - Page 5 on friendships and bringing home art work.

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# COMMUNICATION

## HOW DO WE COMMUNICATE WITH FAMILIES AT GCP?



Do you have an app to send us a photo of my child every day?

no... we don't need an app to communicate with you...



We might send your child's painting home so you can see what they've been doing.




Or leave a block building or lego work in place to show you when you pick up in the afternoon.



Or have a conversation with you about your child's friendships....

## Other ways we communicate with families



The "Gordonews" newsletter

A file kept on each child and shared with parents

Overview email from your child's class on an occasional basis

Transition to school statements for children off to school

Meetings held with teachers on request.

Questions answered via a suggestion/communication box.

Noticeboards and display

Parent:teacher catch up meetings scheduled twice per year

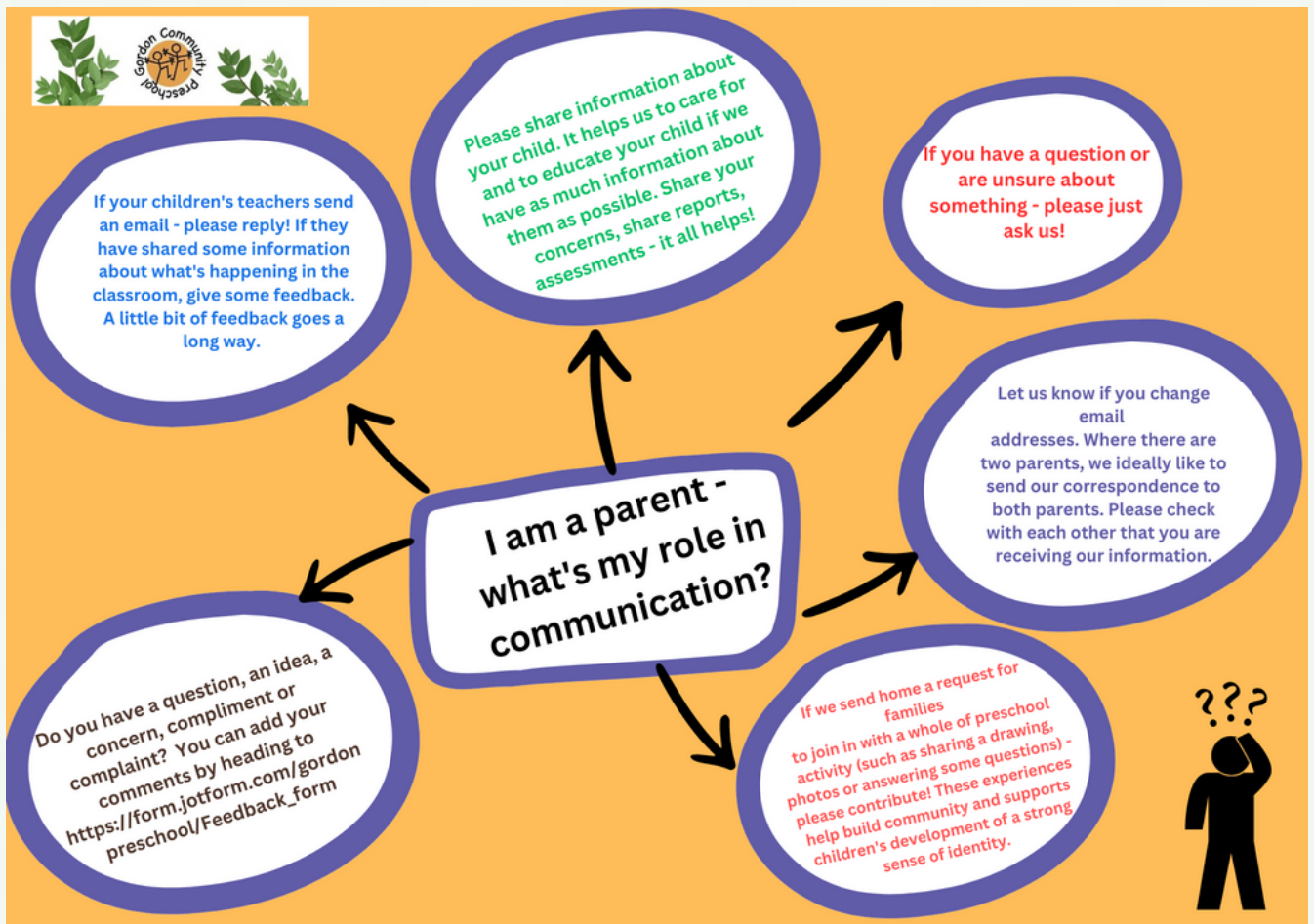
# Communication at GCP



**We try to communicate with families in a variety of ways at GCP.**

- **Conversations** at drop off and pick up times to exchange key information.
- An **overview email** sent from the teachers in your child's classroom which will give you a snapshot of what's been happening at preschool and the learning that's been occurring in a general sense.
- Your child's teachers maintain an **individual file** on each child, the information from which forms the basis of discussion at a **parent:teacher catch up**. These catch ups are held twice each year. In addition to this the files are emailed to parents twice each year.
- **Meetings or phone calls** with families upon request if required.
- **Emails** to and from parents as required.
- For children heading off to school in 2024, the teachers will complete what is referred to as a **"Transition to school statement"**. This is a form developed by the NSW Department of Education and is a key way of sharing information with your child's school and will help facilitate a smooth transition for your child.
- The **"Gordonews"** newsletter sent out via email to families from our preschool Director -it contains information about preschool procedures, policies, preschool events as well as information to support families - parenting information - frequently asked questions - useful links and resources.
- **Health Notices** - if there is an outbreak of an infectious disease, we will inform parents via email as well as posting a notice on our preschool verandah. We usually attach a fact sheet in relation to the particular illness or infection.
- We have a **feedback and question box** on our verandah. If you have a question, a suggestion, an idea or concern, just pop it into the box - or email me directly at [felicityb@gordonpreschool.com.au](mailto:felicityb@gordonpreschool.com.au) or alternatively use our [online feedback form](#).

# Communication at GCP



## Communication from families - what's your role?

- We like to see our relationship with families as a partnership as we care for and educate your children. We share a similar goal in wanting to ensure that your child is happy, cared for, nurtured and supported to fulfil his/her/their maximum potential.
- With this in mind, we really welcome and appreciate your feedback. If the teachers send out an email or programme overview - please let them know you have received this and feel free to comment or ask questions.
- Feedback helps keep the lines of communication open - so please take a moment to read and respond.
- From time to time we have a "community focus" where we share some stories, photos, drawings from families in our preschool foyer. We might have a particular topic such as "Family meals" or "our favourite spaces" or "celebrations". We

ask families to come together at home to write/draw/ contribute to the chosen topic. Parents and siblings might help with the writing and preschoolers can draw and decorate these shared stories. This is a way that we can celebrate and acknowledge each child's family - thus supporting the children's developing sense of identity both as part of a family and as part of the broader preschool community.

- One way you can help is by participating in these community focus projects when we arrange them.
- If you are worried about something or have a question or concern - please talk directly with your child's teachers or contact me - either by phone, in person or via email.



### **My child doesn't talk about friends yet - should I be worried?**

*No! It's early days in our preschool year. Relationships and friendships take time to develop. It's very normal for children to play **alongside** each other, rather than **with** each other at this time of the year. Instead of asking your child "who did you play with?" - Try asking them "what was the thing you liked best about today?".*



### **I see other children bringing home drawings and paintings but my child doesn't have any. Why is this?**

*Chances are your child is just involved in other activities and experiences. Block building, playdough, dramatic play, lotto games with other children, puzzles. What's most important is that children are engaged in an experience, that they are happy, that they are learning new skills and figuring out their own interests and preferences. It's early days in our preschool year. Rest assured, we will support all children to try the range of experiences on offer. Your child's time to bring a drawing or painting home will come. For now though, ask them about what they enjoyed in their day - the process is more important than an end product.*



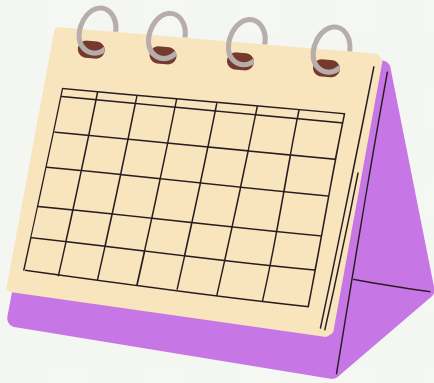
## Verandah rebuild at GCP

We are currently having some construction work done at preschool as we have our verandah and deck rebuilt.

The preschool building and grounds are owned by Ku-Ring-Gai Council and Gordon Community Preschool rents the premises (at a considerably reduced rent).

Over the last 6 months or so, we have been liaising with council about having the deck replaced. We have had it repaired so many times, it became clear that it needed rebuilding. Work is finally underway! It's become a little bit more of an undertaking than first expected, however we have a plan and are moving forward. Lots for the children to look at as the construction workers dig, saw, carry beams, and reveal the underneath of our verandah structure. Very exciting! We appreciate your patience as we manage with barricades and fenced off areas in our playground.





# Term calendars

Attached to this newsletter we have included our term calendars for this term and next term.

We will send details out closer to the time of upcoming events.

Two day group families - keep an eye out for the opportunity to book into a parent teacher meeting this term. We have also scheduled meetings for three day children for next term. However, if your child is new to the preschool this year and you'd prefer to meet this term - please just approach your child's teacher to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Meetings usually take approximately 15-20 minutes.



**DID YOU KNOW?**



that March 8th is  
International Women's Day?



What's  
that got  
to do with  
preschool  
children?



[Is International Women's Day relevant for children?](#)

[By Felicity Barclay](#)



# Meet the team



## KATHARINE Blue (2) & Blue (3)

Hi, I'm a Diploma trained educator in the Blue Room 2 day (Monday and Tuesday) and 3 day (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) class. I am currently in my eighth year at Gordon Community Preschool and I really love my job! Before GCP, I was an educator in a Montessori preschool and before this I lived in England for 6 years. It's great that I can come to work in such an inspiring environment, I am inspired by the children and the other teachers, many of whom are also great friends. Working over the two classes gives me the opportunity to get to know and possibly educate your child for 2 years. I always find it so amazing how your children develop over these two very important preschool years, they are so eager to soak up every new experience and have such a love for learning. I really enjoy singing with the children, reading stories and playing table top/board games, I love a good game of 'snap'! Each year, I look forward to welcoming new little faces at the start of their preschool life and at the end of every year get quite teary, saying good bye to confident 5 year olds, who are ready and well prepared for their next step on their educational journey! I have one son who turned 23 years old last year and is studying electrical engineering at university and a budgie called Artie who I am hoping will start talking soon!

## Annie - Yellow (2) & Yellow (3)



Hi there, my name is Annie MacGregor and I will be working Mon-Fri in the Yellow Room this year! I joined the GCP team in 2022 after completing my Diploma of Early Childhood Education & Care.

I grew up, went to school and still live locally. In my spare time I love to read, swim and take my two dogs, Frankie and Wilfie, to the dog beach. Alongside childcare I am passionate about acting and take regular classes in the city. I love to travel - my count is currently 16 countries in my 20 years! I'm looking forward to visiting and exploring more places in the near future.

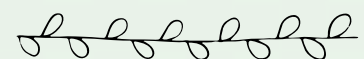
I feel very lucky to be a part of the fabulous team here at GCP, and am looking forward to getting to know you and your children :)



## Tina - Red (2) Thurs/Fri

My name is Tina Kim, an Early Childhood Teacher with ten years of experience in the early childhood sector. I speak fluent Korean and English, and I celebrate diverse cultures and enjoy supporting families from various cultural backgrounds. I migrated to Australia in 2007. It has been amazing to experience both Korean and Australian cultures and their educational systems. I am passionate about educating children to grow into responsible future citizens and be able to make positive changes in the world.

In my spare time, I enjoy reading, watching movies, playing piano and exploring nice coffee shops! I am so grateful to be part of the Gordon Community Preschool team this year.



WE WILL MEET SOME OTHER TEAM MEMBERS  
IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER





☆☆ GCP Term one calendar 2023 ☆☆

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
1	Jan	23	24	25 Child free set up day	26 Public holiday	27 Orientation 9-10 & 11-12 & set up.	28	29
2	Feb	30 ½ M/T group begins All M/T/W children begin	31 other ½ of M/T group begins	1 All W/T/F children begin	2 ½ T/F group begins	3 other ½ of T/F group begins	4	5
3		6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4		13	14	15	16	17	18	19
5		20	21 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day	22 Ramadan starts	23	24	25	26
6		27 Talk through Fire Drill	28	1 1 <sup>st</sup> Day Autumn	2 Talk through Fire Drill	3	4	5
7		6	7	8 class of 2022 REUNION 4.30 International Women's Day	9	10	11 1 <sup>st</sup> Aid 9AM	12
8	March	13	14	15	16	17 St Patrick's Day (to be sure!)	18	19
9		20 Rockpool adventures R3/G3 10AM and B2/Y2 11.15AM Harmony Week	21	22	23	24 My Pet Dinosaur B3/Y3 10AM and R2/G2 11.15AM	25	26
10	April	27 <sup>th</sup> B2 Parent Teacher catch up	28 Y2 Parent Teacher catch up	29	30 R2 Parent Teacher Catch Up AGM 7.30PM	31 G2 Parent Teacher catch up.	1 <sup>st</sup> Ap	2
11		3	4	5	6 Last day of term one	7 GOOD FRIDAY Public Holiday	8 Easter Saturday	9 Easter Sunday
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23

**Term one self care/wellbeing focus is BALANCE....**

Identify areas of imbalance

"Life will always have its ups, downs and its stressful moments. This term, take a look at the current causes of imbalance and stress in your life. Ask yourself "what things would need to be removed from my life for me to feel more balanced and still? And... could I say goodbye to at least some of those things?"  
(From Every Day Matters 2023 diary/ Jess Sharp).



## GCP Term two calendar 2023

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	SAT	SUN
1.	April	24 Staff Professional development Day	25 ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	26	27	28	29	30
2.	May	1	2 Drum Beats B2 and Y2 10.30AM	3	4 Drum Beats R2 and G2	5	6	7
3.		8	9 Peter Morgan 10.30AM R3 & G3 Lockdown practice this week	10	11 Peter Morgan 10.30AM B3 & Y3	12	13	14
4.		15 G3 Parent Teacher Catch Up	16 R3 Parent:Teacher catch up	17	18 B3 Parent Teacher Catch Up	19 Y3 Parent Teacher Catch Up	20	21
5.		22	23 R3 & G3 Australia walkabout wildlife park excursion	24	25 Y3 & B3 Australia walkabout wildlife park excursion	26 Fiona Mason speech screen	27	28
6.		29	30	31	1	2	3	4
7.	June	5 Y2 visitors morning tea R3 Visitor's morning tea	6 B2 visitors morning tea G3 visitor's morning tea	7 Y3 Visitor's morning tea	8 R2 visitor's morning tea B3 visitor's morning tea	9 G2 visitor's morning tea	10	11
8.		12 King's Birthday Public Holiday	13 Fire Drill this week	14	15	16	17	18
9.		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10.	July	26 B2 walk to library excursion 11AM story	27 Y2 walk to library excursion 12.15 story	28	29 G2 walk to library excursion 11AM story	30 Last Day of Term Two R2 walk to library excursion 12.15 story	1st	2nd Naidoc week
hols		3rd Naidoc Week "for our elders" School holidays	4 School holidays	5 School holidays	6 School holidays	7 School holidays	8	9
		10 School holidays	11 School holidays	12 School holidays	13 School holidays	14 School holidays	15	16

Term two self care and well being focus is **POSITIVITY**. "What does the word "Positivity" mean to you? For some people these days, it can have fairly negative connotations due to the idea of it requiring "good vibes only" and therefore not allowing any negative stuff in. But this doesn't have to be its meaning. Personally, I see positivity as a gentle optimism. A small beacon of light in the darkness. A metaphorical hand on the shoulder when things are feeling tough. As such, I don't see it as being about shutting out the negative things, the difficult bits or the dark days. Instead, I see it as knowing that, although these dark times exist, there's hope for a better and brighter time soon. A belief that although things feel overwhelming now – you have the capability and the resilience to make it through." This term – can you .... 1. Reflect on hard times you have in your life and rather than letting it drag you down, consider what you learnt from the experience. 2. Make some plans to have something to look forward to – book a coffee date with a friend, a concert ticket, time away... 3. Be aware of whether you are kind and positive about yourself. Every time you find yourself being mean or negative, gently stop yourself. If you wouldn't say it to a friend – you shouldn't be saying it to yourself. 4.. Do something nice for someone - buy a stranger a coffee, leave a kind anonymous note – it might seem insignificant to you – but to someone else it could be the positive lifeline they needed. **From Every Day Matters 2023 diary/ Jess Sharp.**