

## Dates to Remember

Friday	26 <sup>th</sup>	February	District Swimming Sports
Tuesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	March	PTFA AGM 7.30pm
Monday	8 <sup>th</sup>	March	Labour Day Public Holiday
Wednesday	10 <sup>th</sup>	March	Gater Games
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	March	2022 Foundation Tours – 10.00am, 2.30pm and 5.00pm
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	March	School Council AGM – 7.30pm
Thursday	18 <sup>th</sup>	March	School Photos
Monday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	March	Grade 5 & 6 Leadership Day
Wednesday	24 <sup>th</sup>	March	GATEWays
Thursday	25 <sup>th</sup>	March	GATEWays
Thursday	1 <sup>st</sup>	April	Last Day of Term 1 – 2.30pm Dismissal
Friday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	April	Good Friday

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

### SO WELCOME BACK AGAIN!

From the school's point of view last week was not entirely unexpected and we commenced the year making contingency plans, so when it actually happened, I am pleased to say we were well prepared.

The whole staff including office, educational support staff and teachers sprang into action and worked at a frantic pace over lunch and the afternoon to ensure student packs, supplies and log in details were sent home Friday afternoon ready for learning online on Monday.

I am incredibly proud of our staff's professionalism and dedication to their students as well as feeling equally proud of all Gater families who took up the challenge again and ensured children were in attendance at their GoogleMeets and completing their school work.

In these unpredictable times it would seem highly likely that this may happen again but working together we know that we can all rise to meet any challenge set before us.

At a time like this how great is it to be a Gater and what a great all round effort!

*Great to be a Gater!*

*Cheryl Sampson*

Principal



**Cheryl Sampson | Principal**

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Ferntree Gully 3156

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*Mutual Respect  
Appreciation  
Attentive Listening  
Right to Pass  
Aim High*

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## NOMINATIONS FOR SCHOOL COUNCIL ARE NOW OPEN

Mountain Gate Primary School Council is comprised of parents, the principal, staff and a community member.

If you are an enthusiastic parent interested in getting more involved, or know someone who is, we would love to hear from you. We are looking for people who are committed to improving the educational outcomes for all our students. Effective councils have a broad range of experience, skills and expertise.

Nominations for School Council open on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February and close Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February. If you would like to nominate yourself for School Council please call into the Office during this week to complete a form. Retiring members (after 2 years) are also eligible to re-nominate.

Please contact the Office or Mrs. Sampson if you would like to know more about joining School Council.

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## PTFA

The PTFA Annual General Meeting (AGM) is being held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.30pm in the staffroom. We invite all parents who can spare 1 hour on this night to come along and join our dedicated group.

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday night of each month and are relaxed and informal. Our Principal, or Assistant Principal, and a School Council representative attend each meeting. The usual length of a meeting is 1 hour. All meetings are child free.

It's a great opportunity to meet other parents whilst at the same time helping our school.

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## RIDING TO SCHOOL

In accordance with DET guidelines and in recognition that a young child does not have the concentration, vision and judgement skills necessary to ride a bicycle safely in traffic, students below Year Four are not permitted to ride their bicycles to school. Only children in Grades 4 – 6 can ride to school.

The main points of our MGPS Riding to School Policy (approved by School Council) are:

1. Students who ride a bicycle to and from school must wear an Australian Standards Association approved helmet.
  2. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that their children are able to ride safely before allowing them to ride to or from school. This is not Mountain Gate Primary School's responsibility.
  3. Bikes will be stored at school and whilst all care will be taken we cannot accept responsibility for theft or damage.
  4. For safety reasons and storage difficulties we also do not permit the riding of scooters to school. If a parent chooses to accompany younger children to school riding a scooter or bike these must be taken home as we do not have adequate storage facilities.
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## ENTERING AND EXITING THE SCHOOL

All students and parents entering and exiting the school are reminded that they must use the pedestrian gates and paths and also use the school pedestrian crossings.

It is unnecessary and unsafe to walk through carparks especially as there are several alternative gates and paths around the school and the school crossing is a must, given the busy traffic at drop off and pick up times.

Parents are also asked to park around the school and **not to park in the staff carparks** or use them as a pick up or drop off zone please. There is ample space in the streets surrounding the school.

For the safety of all, could parents and students please follow this expectation.

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## FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

Parent contributions are now due. Many thanks to our parents who have paid their financial contribution for 2021. Please come and meet with Jenny Lamont (Business Manager) if you would like to arrange a payment plan. Parent payments are an essential source of funds for a school to operate effectively and enable us to provide the many programs and resources we provide for our students.

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## ANAPHYLAXIS – IMPORTANT PLEASE!

Please be aware that several of our students have extreme allergic reactions to some foods – especially nuts. We ask that you take this serious issue into consideration when you are packing your child's lunch box or sending food along for sharing. Whilst individual children are alert to particular triggers, we can all assist by reducing the likelihood of an anaphylactic episode by avoiding nuts being brought to school and encouraging students to use the anti-bacterial hand wash available in all classrooms.

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## COLLECTING CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL

When collecting your child from school for dental or medical appointments, parents will need to complete the sign out book at the office and then collect your child from the classroom. Please allow plenty of time to get to your appointment, as we are unable to call children to the office. We strive to keep classroom interruptions to a minimum to maximize student learning.

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## CSEF (Camps Sports and Excursions Fund)

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student misses out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. CSEF will be provided to eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

- Primary school student rate: \$125 per year.
- Secondary school student rate: \$225 per year.

To be eligible for CSEF you must hold a Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card valid on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and a copy of the card must be supplied to the office with your application.

If you did not receive a form home with your child, please call past the office to collect one.

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## HEADLICE

We have had a number of head lice cases reported to the office this week. Over the weekend, please **take the time to thoroughly check** your children's hair. A weekly check followed by treatment if needed will then help to keep lice under control.

Children with head lice get this through no fault of their own; it is usually passed on by head-to-head contact. Controlling the head lice outbreaks can be done by weekly checks of your child's hair using conditioner (any cheap conditioner will do).

### FINDING HEADLICE

Many lice do not cause an itch, so you have to look carefully to find them.

Head lice are found on the hair itself and move to the scalp to feed. They have six legs, which end in a claw and rarely fall from the head. Louse eggs (also called nits) are laid within 1.5 cm. of the scalp and are firmly attached to the hair. They resemble dandruff, but can't be brushed off. Lice can crawl and hide.

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The easiest and most effective way to find them is to follow these steps:

**STEP 1:** Comb any type of hair conditioner on to the dry, brushed (detangled) hair. This stuns the lice and makes it difficult for them to grip the hair or crawl and hide.

**STEP 2:** Now comb sections of the hair with a fine tooth, head lice comb.

**STEP 3:** Wipe the conditioner from the comb onto a paper towel or tissue.

**STEP 4:** Look on the tissue and on the comb for lice and eggs.

**STEP 5:** Repeat the combing for every part of the head at least 4 or 5 times.

If head lice are found you must treat the hair with a solution that you can purchase from the chemist or supermarket. After treating the hair it is imperative that you remove all eggs from the hair (NO TREATMENT WILL KILL EGGS). You are then required to **retreat the hair in 7 to 10 days time. (Refer to instructions on product used)**

Please note that children with live lice are excluded from attending School until appropriate treatment has commenced.

# Stars of the Week

Week Ending - 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021



Grade FJ	Klara Gurry	Being kind and friendly to everyone in our class
Grade FM	Joseph De Ieso	For being so brave starting school and making some great friendships
Grade FV	Hanaka Kushibiki	For aiming high all week long!
Grade 1H	Sona Kanda	For a great start to the year by showing all the Gater agreements!
Grade 1M	Ashlyn Douglas	Helping our new Gater friend feel welcome at Mountain Gate. A great friend!
Grade 1W	Matilda Robertson	For an amazing start to the year and aiming high with all her work
Grade 2B	Isabella Spadaro	For being such a great Gater settling in so well!
Grade 2M	Willow Bodor	For working so hard and a kind Gater!
Grade 2R	Kai Hayes	What an amazing Gater you are! Well done on your first week as a Grade 2!
Grade 3B	Danni McIntyre	For a hard working week, always aiming high.
Grade 3F	Makayla Cichowicz	For being a Great Gater and settling into Grade 3 so well.
Grade 3P	Koby Bosua-Flintropp	For settling into 3P beautifully and being an absolute GREAT GATER!
Grade 4B	The Whole Grade	For a great week and being resilient shifting classroom spaces.
Grade 4S	Archer Booker	For being a great Gater.
Grade 5D	Jude Wild	For starting school with a breeze and following all tribes agreements.
Grade 5H	Grace Allen	Aiming high and being kind to those around her.
Grade 6E	Kira Bedford	Settling into life in Grade 6 and completing her work to a high standard.
Grade 6H	Grady Kolodziej	A cheerful classmate who aims high with his work.
ART	Grade 2R	
MUSIC		
P.E.	Grade 3F	
LIBRARY		

# SPECIAL INVITATION

Mountain Gate Primary School has always been very pro-active with raising funds to provide facilities for our children. It is very important for us as a community to ensure that funds are available for extras items not always covered by School funding.

On behalf of the Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA) we invite you to attend our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, which will be held in the staffroom at 7.30pm. I urge all parents who can spare 1 hour on this night to come along and join our dedicated group.

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday night of each month and are relaxed and informal. Our Principal, or Assistant Principal, and a School Council representative attend each meeting. The usual length of a meeting is 1 hour. All meetings are child free.

The PTFA runs several BBQ's throughout the year including the Foundation BBQ, a Bunnings BBQ and any election BBQ's that come up. We also co-ordinate the Grade 6 Graduation Dinner, Easter Raffle, Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day Stalls and our Trivia Night.

We will be planning our wish list for 2021 and any other suggestions for fundraisers during the year are welcome. Please consider participating and return the slip below as soon as possible. At the Annual General Meeting of the PTFA we will be holding elections for the office bearing positions for the coming year. The following is a short summary of what the positions entail.

Of course we understand that not everybody wants to be an Office Bearer or be involved in every activity – perhaps you would just like to help out at one or two things and that would be just fine with us!

Please consider coming to the meeting, bring a friend too. It's a great way of meeting other families and getting involved in school life.

## GENERAL MEMBER

General Committee members assist with fundraising items, such as packing chocolate orders, helping on the Mothers' Day stall, distributing raffle tickets, etc.

## PRESIDENT

You will be required to chair a meeting each month. You will also be required to co-ordinate various fundraising activities during the year and delegate accordingly.

## VICE PRESIDENT

This position is a backup for the president if in need of assistance and may be required to chair the monthly meeting during his/her absence.

## SECRETARY

The secretary is required to record the minutes of each meeting, file them and to handle the correspondence. You may also be called upon for assistance by the president.

## ASSISTANT SECRETARY

In the case of the secretary being absent you would be required to step in and record the minutes or assist the secretary in his/her duties.

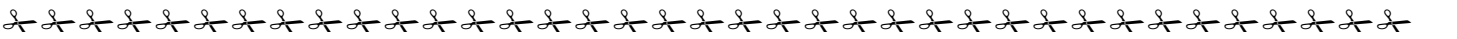
TREASURER

You would be required to keep accurate records of all monies received, and liaise with office staff in regards to banking. A report would need to be submitted at each meeting.

All monies must be counted by at least 2 persons before being handed in to the office. Please note it is a requirement that you have been involved in the PTFA for at least 2 years in order to fill this position.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

You would assist the treasurer in all formal duties.



PTFA NOMINATION FORM

- ☐ I would like to participate in the PTFA in the following role:
  - ☐ General Member
  - ☐ Secretary
  - ☐ Treasurer
  - ☐ President
  - ☐ Vice President
  - ☐ Assistant Secretary
  - ☐ Assistant Treasurer
- ☐ I cannot attend meetings but I can spare time for fundraisers.
- ☐ Any suggestions or ideas for fundraising.....

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name and Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

