From the Principal...

Voluntary School Contributions - Today all families will receive information about the voluntary school contribution fees. This year we have kept the cost the same at $60 per student. This money greatly assists our school to continue running effective programs, provide high quality resources and ensure we can maintain and operate air conditioning and Interactive Whiteboards in every classroom. There will be an incentive draw for those families who pay their contributions in full. This year we will have a gift voucher per grade. Each student who has their contributions paid in full will be placed in the draw. It would be greatly appreciated if contributions could be finalised by Friday 1 May (Week 2 Term 2).

Stage 3 Parent Information Session - A note was sent out to all Stage Three students yesterday. The information session about High School Applications and Social Media will now be held on Tuesday 24 February commencing at 4pm. My apologies for any inconvenience the change in date may have caused parents.

School Car Park - Parents are reminded that the staff car park is not an area to drop off students in the morning or collect students in the afternoon. Our car park has limited space considering the large number of staff we have here at Governor Philip King. We are requesting that parents do not drive into the school in the morning or the afternoon. The safety of our students is our number one priority. Parents driving in and out of the car park pose a significant risk to both students and parents using the pedestrian access.

School Uniform - At Governor Philip King Public School we take great pride in our school uniform. The uniform is a reflection of our school. Please support our high standards and insist that your child wears their correct full school uniform each day. This includes the correct school hat and either black school shoes or black supportive joggers.

Writing notes - If your child has missed school, you need to provide a written note with the following information:

1. include your child’s name and class
2. include the date/s and number of days your child was away
3. explain why your child was away
4. include other information as needed.

If your child is going to be away for more than three days please let the school office know. You will still need to write a note when your child returns.

Kids, Social Media and Privacy - Regardless of your child’s age, the world may already know a lot more about them than you suspect. According to recent research:

- 92% of children under the age of 2 have a digital shadow (- it starts with proud parents posting newborn baby photos on Facebook or Instagram)
- a quarter of Australian children 8 - 12 years old use Facebook, but the minimum age for a user is 13 years
- more than 20 per cent of tweens publish photos of themselves on Instagram
- young people 14 - 19 have an average of 453 fans, friends or followers on social media.

It is a good time to review your family’s privacy settings and discuss online security. You’ll find lots of practical information and resources to share with your kids at www.ipc.nsw.gov.au

P&C Second Hand Uniform Sale - A second hand uniform sale will be held on Thursday, 26 March from 8:30am near the front office.
Is your child's backpack damaging their spine? - Australian studies have shown that approximately 25% of school-aged children suffer from back and/or neck pain at any one time. It's believed to be due to a combination of factors such as poor posture, everyday load carrying and the use of computers. The Children's Hospital at Westmead suggests young people should:

- not carry more than 10% of their body weight
- use a backpack with the straps over both shoulders and a waist strap
- load gear so that the heavier objects are nearer to the spine, with the lighter objects towards the front of the pack
- lift a backpack properly - bend at the knees and lift the pack with both hands.


New Reading Assessments - Over the last few years, teachers at GPK have been developing their understanding of how children read and the importance of improving their comprehension skills. All teachers have been involved in creating a new standard of assessing students' reading skills and comprehension. Every student will be extensively assessed at the beginning, throughout and at the end of the year. This data will allow teachers to provide them with appropriate reading material and explicit skills to foster their reading development.

With these new assessments, we also have new standards and levels. To achieve a level, students must read aloud, retell the passage read and then answer a range of targeted comprehension questions. They must achieve a pass level in each task to be allocated to a level.

In the past, reading levels were assigned on the basis of the student's ability to read each word in the passage. We will now also be insisting on their detailed understanding of what they have read, to achieve a reading level. We are sure you will agree this gives students, parents and teachers, a complete understanding of each student's reading ability: THEIR ABILITY TO BOTH READ AND UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY HAVE READ.

Over this term all students will be assessed with these new standards for reading. When you ask, they might tell you that they are on a different reading level than they were previously. Please be aware that they have not dropped or jumped levels from their previous ones - the fact is that the requirements for levels (as explained above) have changed. As always, please make an appointment to see your child's class teacher to discuss any questions you might have.

Values Education - The value for Week 4 is Good Manners. Good manners are when we speak and behave with respect for ourselves and others through sweet speech, warm greetings, courteous and polite behaviour, gratitude, appreciation and responsible behaviour. Students will learn the importance of having good manners. Please encourage your children to use good manners at home and in the community. Mrs S. Kumar, Student Engagement.

Library News - The Library will be open for parent borrowing from 8:00-8.50am on the following mornings only: - Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Ms. Halabe.

Have a great week!
Jason Corcoran
Principal
Home Tutor
Maths, English
Reading, Writing
Naplan
0425 806 731

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WWW.ICACADEMY.COM.AU

Generation Fit
Generation Fit has helped hundreds of parents around the area lose weight and get into shape. We run Group Personal Training and Boot Camp Programs that focus on weight loss and toning. We run sessions throughout the week with sessions on at 6am, 9:15am, 7pm and 8pm as well as a Saturday morning session at 7am. The majority of our members are women and if you are interested in trying out our program you can call or e-mail us and mention this ad to start a FREE 2-week trial program with us.

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