



Jeffries Street
GOWRIE ACT 2904
Telephone (02) 6142 1960
Principal: Simon Smith

GAZETTE Week 2, Term 1



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Newsletter Archive



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Calendar	2
Principal's Message	3
Deputy Principal's Message	6
Library News	10
Important News	12
P & C News	13
Community News	14

Calendar

February

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
			Yr 5 Band Parent Information Session – 4pm Scholastic book orders due back			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Carers

On behalf of the Gowrie School community, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2022 school year. In particular, I welcome the new families who are joining us for the first time.

I appreciate the return to school brings with it uncertainty brought on by the pandemic. I am sure many have questions on protocol and procedures when certain events may occur. We will endeavour to keep you informed as soon as possible. The reality is, we are somewhat unsure what lies ahead, but we will continue to do all that is possible to support you with regular communication. Importantly, please contact the school if you have concerns or need clarification.

I am grateful for the considerable efforts of all Gowrie Primary staff, to ensure staff and students return to school safely as safely as possible.

Although the information below has already been shared with you I would like to repeat it to re iterate the importance.

Managing COVID-19 in schools

We are prepared to respond to a positive COVID-19 case on campus. A student who presents with symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated with suitable supervision, and parents will be required to collect their child. Symptomatic students will be required to wear a mask. Symptomatic staff and visitors will be advised to travel directly home.

If a staff member, child, young person or visitor is diagnosed with COVID-19 and has attended a school site during their infectious period, they are required to advise their school.

Where a COVID-19 case in a school leads to students and staff being assessed as at risk of exposure, those impacted will be informed by the school about what they are required to do in line with ACT Health requirements. If the exposure is considered low risk, students and staff will continue to be able to attend school while closely monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms.

Risk assessments are based off the ACT Health Guidelines for Schools.

COVID-19 screening

Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should get a PCR or Rapid Antigen Test immediately.

Free Rapid Antigen Tests will be provided to all staff and students in ACT schools for the first four weeks of term 1. Rapid Antigen Testing will be voluntary for staff and students. Students and staff will do the tests at home and are required to report any positive test results to their school and to ACT Health.

Rapid Antigen Testing kits will be available to collect from school during the first week of term. More information on the collection arrangements for our school will be provided in the coming days.

Break times

The break times have been adjusted to support limited contact between students and staff.

Students will have access to the entire playground with only their immediate cohort/team of students. The below timetable sets out student breaks.

	Breaks		
	K-2	3/4	5/6
8.30			
9.00			
9.30			
10.00			Break 1
10.30		Break 1	
11.00	Break 1		
11.30			Break 2
12.00		Break 2	
12.30	Break 2		
1.00			Break 3
1.30		Break 3	
2.00	Break 3		
2.30			
3.00			
3.30	I		

Thank you again for all the support from the community in these very uncertain times.

Enjoy the rest of the week

Simon

Deputy Principal's Message

Message from the Deputy Principal

Welcome to an exciting Term 1! We have had a fabulous start to the learning year and are very impressed with the way all students have settled into their new classroom surroundings. Each of the classes have started the new year with activities based on cooperation and 'getting to know you', created class agreements, established routines and discussed expectations within a strong educational philosophy that places Gowrie Values and Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL) at the centre.

Term Overviews

Term overviews provide a summary of the teaching and learning programs designed for the students in each year. This will include an outline of the curriculum this term including literacy, numeracy and inquiry units, class timetable and break times, home/school communication and other routines such as library borrowing, arrival/collection routines and homework expectations. Term overviews for each year level will be emailed to families next week in Wk 3.

Safe and Supportive Schools Policy

Canberra Public Schools are safe environments in which to work and learn. The Directorate is committed to promoting the health and wellbeing of all staff and students ensuring that schools are safe and supportive. All members of the school community are responsible for contributing to a safe and supportive school environment. Please read the Working Together with our School Brochure attached which outlines a code of conduct expected for all members of the school community.

For more information on the Safe & Supportive Schools Policy please click on the link:

https://www.education.act.gov.au/publications_and_policies/School-and-Corporate-Policies/wellbeing/safety/safe-and-supportive-schools-policy

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) is a comprehensive, integrated whole school approach to student wellbeing and behaviour at Gowrie Primary School. The process supports the school leadership team to enhance and create positive learning environments that enable student learning and wellbeing. The key expectations are: We are Safe, We are Respectful, We are Responsible Learners. Students will be receiving positive acknowledgements on the playground when displaying these behaviours. We have posters and signs across the school with our key expectations written clearly. Successful implementation of PBL is underpinned by the support and commitment of the school community.

Individual Learning Plans (ILP) Parent/Teacher Interviews

During Term 1 parents are invited to our ILP Parent/Teacher Interviews during Wk 4 and 5 from Tuesday 22 February to Thursday 3 March 2022. As part of our ongoing commitment to delivering the best for each student and to ensure open channels of communication we will be holding individual interviews with Preschool – Yr 6 parents for identified students with specific learning needs to meet with their child's teacher and to discuss their child's strengths, share relevant information and create goals to meet their child's needs. All students in our Learning Support Unit (LSUA) are required to have an ILP. Bookings will need to be made online. Information will be sent to parents separately.



Term 1 Reminders

Playground Supervision

Playground supervision begins at 8.45am. Classes begin at 9.00am. Before School Care is available for students requiring supervision before 8.45am. All students are to play within the school boundaries.



Playground Equipment

The school playground equipment should only be used by students during school hours under the supervision of staff. In the interests of the safety of all children, parents should ensure that their children do not use playground equipment before or after school.



Hats – Be SunSmart and Safe at All Times

Children are strongly encouraged to ensure they wear a SunSmart hat for sun protection during all outside lessons, play activities and recess and lunch play. Students will be required to play in the covered courtyard areas if they do not have a hat. No Hat – Play in the Shade.



Bikes

Bikes are to be left locked at the bike racks (Please supply your child with a bike lock). The school does not accept responsibility for lost or stolen bikes. By law, a helmet must be worn while riding. Scooters may be kept in the units. Please check with your child's teacher. All students must walk their bike or scooter while on school grounds.



Allergy Aware

Gowrie Primary is an allergy aware school. We currently have a number of children & staff with asthma and gluten, nut, artificial colouring, preservatives allergies presenting in our school and the wider community. Our staff supervise eating every day and support the children to eat their own food, NOT to share food and NOT to borrow or swap food. We ask families not to bring any of these types of products to school in order to minimise exposure to students who do have allergies.



Dogs

ACT Dog laws prohibit dogs from being on the premises (including the grounds) of primary schools at any time. For the safety of our students, dogs should not be on the school grounds.

I look forward to seeing many of you over the coming weeks and to establishing a productive partnership with you.

Angela Georgopoulos

Deputy Principal

Library News

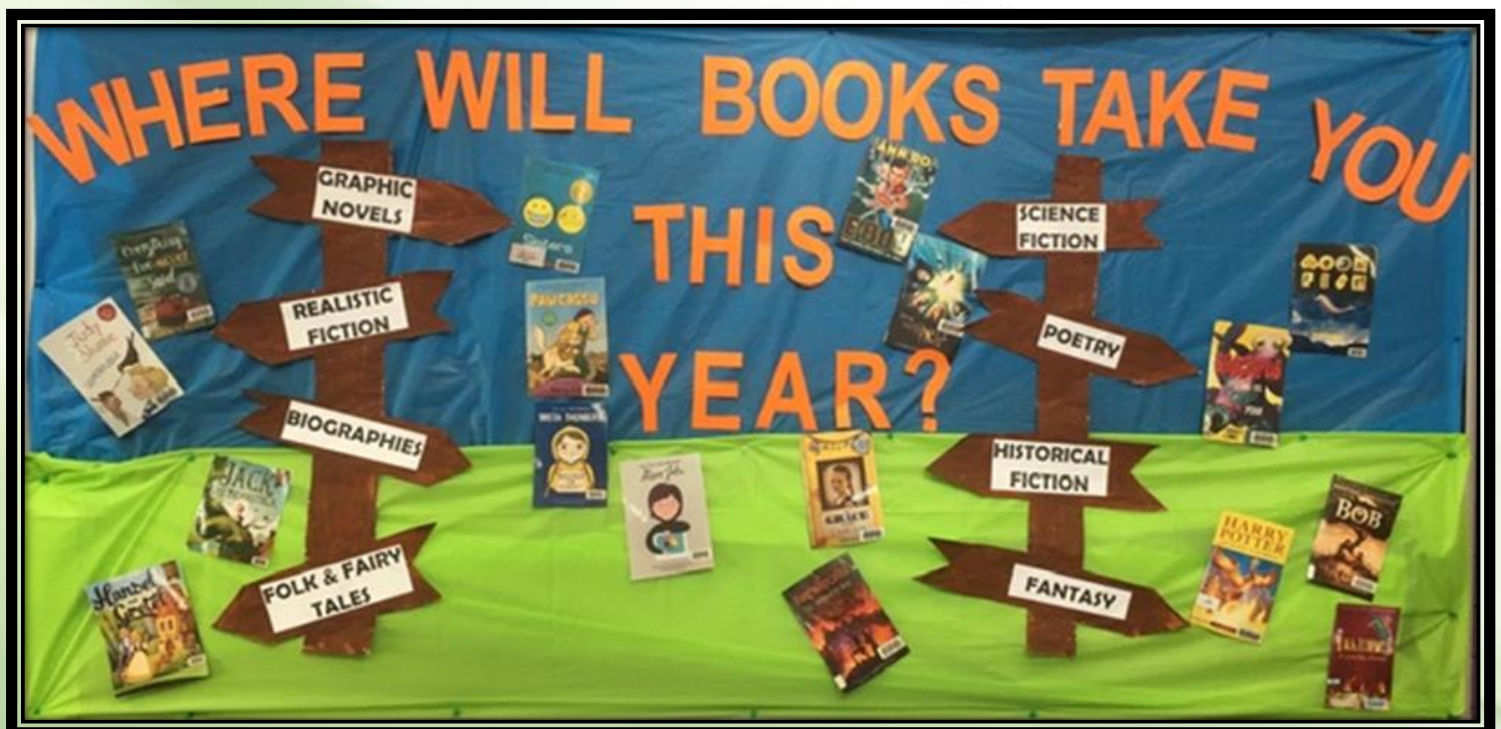
LIBRARY NEWS

The start of 2022 sees the Library offering a variety of borrowing options, to support the school's current cohorting arrangements.

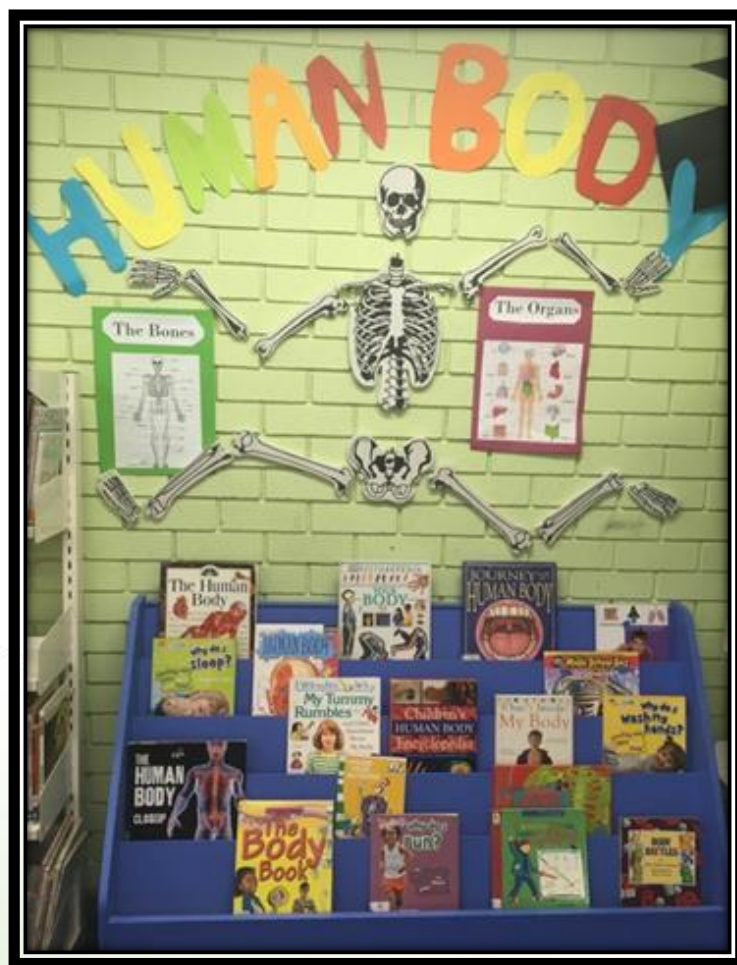
P-2 and Brindabella students continue to visit the library for weekly class borrowing and returning.

Lambrigg and Lanyon students are reserving books through the schools Oliver platform. These books, once borrowed under student's individual names, are collected by the classroom teacher. All students also have access to a range of class set books, borrowed from the library, reflecting their current curriculum study, as well as personal interest.

Our first major display for 2022, highlights the large range of genres that our library offers such as fairy tales, biographies, fantasy and graphic novels. The library is continually adding new books to all genres. Our signposts aim to point students in the direction of a genre they have not yet have considered.



Week 2 also sees some colourful washing being hung to promote our socks, hats and underpants books as well as a lively skeleton overlooking our Human Body books from our Non-Fiction section.



Happy Reading,
Wendy Wheeler
Library Resources Manager

Important News



During the holidays:

Did you move home?

Get a new phone number?

Change your email address or

Have a new emergency contact person?

If you need to update any of your contact details, please let us know either by email – gowp@gowriepps.act.edu.au

Thankyou in advance



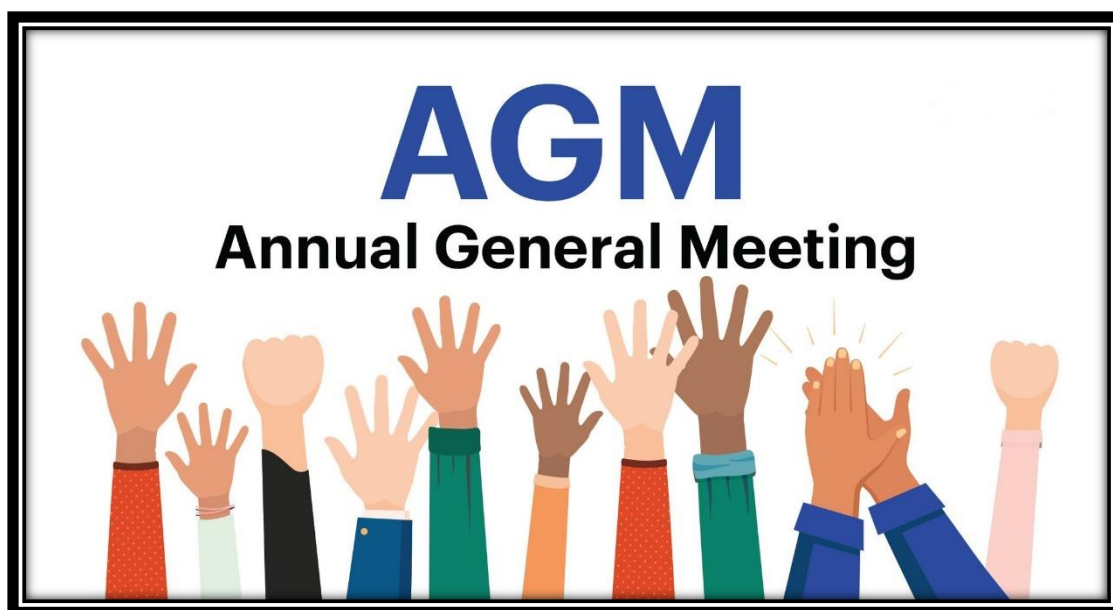
School Board nomination for 2022

Gowrie Primary has two Parent and Citizens member positions on the School Board for 2022 and 2023.

Nominations for the positions will open, 11:00am Wednesday 9th February 2022, and close 11:00am Wednesday 16th February 2022. If you are interested in the position, please contact the front office to receive a nomination form. Please note if there are multiple nominations for the position, the school community will need to conduct a formal vote. Further information on the voting process will be provided when and if needed.

The School Board is an excellent way to become involved in all aspects of school life, both academic and corporate. It meets twice a school term on Monday nights at 5:30pm.

If you would like further information, please contact the Assisting Return Officer on 61421960 to discuss further.



The Gowrie Primary P&C (Parents and Citizens) association will be holding the Annual General Meeting on Monday 21 February 2022. The meeting will take place at 6:30pm via Zoom. At this meeting the executive positions will be filled by members of the school community.

If you attend the meeting please do not feel obliged to nominate for an executive position. You can attend meetings and participate in the school P&C as a community member without holding a formal position. The P&C meets twice each term.

The P&C is a terrific way of meeting families and staff within the school and contributing to the school community.

If you wish to attend the Annual General Meeting, please contact the Gowrie P&C at [gowriepc@gmail.com](mailto:gowiepc@gmail.com) and ask for the virtual meeting link.

Kind Regards

Gowrie P&C

Community News



Want to be a COVID-19 superhero?

Want to get your 5 to 11-year-old vaccinated against COVID-19 but worried they will put up their shield and start a battle with you? Canberra Health Services is here to help make it fun in a COVID-safe way! Join us on Saturday 12 February 2022 as we transform the AIS Arena mass vaccination clinic into a superhero centre. We're encouraging your little one to channel their inner superpowers, so feel free to bring them dressed up in their favourite superhero costume.

It will be a day of fun filled activities, so mark it in your calendar and get ready for an epic adventure. You can find all the details on the Canberra Health Services Facebook page. Appointments are available over the phone by calling the ACT COVID-19 vaccination booking line on 02 5124 7700, 7am to 7pm, daily.

PURPOSE

The ACT Education Directorate is committed to respecting human rights and protecting the safety and welfare of all persons in all public education settings.

This Code of Conduct outlines the responsibilities of community members, Directorate staff and students to behave appropriately and positively to prevent or minimise non-compliant and aggressive behaviours.

The ACT Education Directorate will not tolerate purposeful violence on their premises or towards their staff or students. Under Territory law, it is an offence to behave in a disorderly, violent or offensive way on Directorate premises or fail to leave the premises if directed to do so by the principal, a person authorised by the principal or the site manager.

Everyone, including all Directorate staff, students, parents, carers and visitors have a right to:

- be treated with dignity, courtesy and respect
- participate in education environments that are safe, secure and free from bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence
- access mechanisms within or external to the school to lodge complaints
- expect that complaints will be dealt with respectfully, transparently and meaningfully, and
- expect that privacy will be respected at all times, unless authorised

The Code of Conduct is guided by relevant ACT legislation:

Education ACT 2004

Children and Young People Act 1999

Human Rights Act 2004

Work, Health and Safety Act 2011

The Code links directly with Directorate policies and guidelines that enact this legislation:

- Safe and Supportive Schools Policy
- Critical/Non-Critical Incident Management and Reporting Policy
- Family Law Policy
- Communities Online: Acceptable Use of IT - Parents and Students Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Working with Children and Young People – Volunteers and Visitors Policy
- Occupational Violence Policy.



WORKING TOGETHER WITH YOUR SCHOOL

A Code of Conduct to promote respectful interaction on ACT Education Directorate premises.



Cover photo courtesy of Brad Flickinger

This Code of Conduct is underpinned by the ACT Public Service values outlined in the Strategic Plan 2014-17. These are:

**Respect
Integrity
Collaboration
Innovation**

Responsibilities

All members of the ACT community are expected to:

- conduct themselves in a respectful and responsible manner that recognises and respects the rights of others and is in compliance with the law
- act appropriately on Directorate premises and ensure that personal behaviour does not contribute to inappropriate conduct by others
- at no time use threatening behaviour and harassment.
- comply with this Code of Conduct when on Directorate premises.

Principals and site managers are expected to:

- lead the implementation of this Code of Conduct within their setting
- model exemplary conduct by demonstrating the values and principles of the Strategic Plan
- communicate high expectations for the way in which staff, students, visitors and community members conduct themselves
- provide a safe, secure and supportive learning environment
- advise parents, carers and other members of the community of the appropriate Directorate mechanisms for lodging and dealing with complaints
- request any person acting in an offensive or disorderly way to leave the premises, and if necessary, as an authorised person, direct them to do so
- call the police if a person fails to follow a direction to leave the premises.

Teachers and staff are expected to:

- work in partnership with parents and carers to enhance the learning outcomes and support the well-being and conduct of their child
- communicate high expectations for the learning achievement and conduct of all students
- ensure consistency and fairness in interactions with all members of the community
- ensure that personal behaviour does not contribute to inappropriate conduct of others
- identify factors that may contribute to inappropriate conduct and actively devise strategies to minimise these
- report all incidents of bullying, harassment or violent conduct in accordance with Directorate policies.
- ensure compliance with the core expectations that the government and community have for public servants including teachers as set out in the values and principles contained in section 6 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* and the Teachers' Code of Professional Practice.

Students are expected to:

- participate actively in their education program
- take responsibility for their conduct and learning
- demonstrate respect for themselves, other members of the education community and their learning environment
- learn and interact in a cooperative and courteous manner
- respect and comply with requests made by the principal or school staff
- agree to abide by the requirements for access and acceptable use of information communication technology.

Parents/caregivers and community members are expected to:

- Work positively in partnership with the school to:
- contribute positively to behaviour, academic and other personalised support plans that relate to their child to enhance learning outcomes
- support the well-being and conduct of their child
- support staff in maintaining a safe, secure and respectful learning environment for all students
- respect and comply with reasonable requests or directions of the principal or other members of staff
- agree to abide by the requirements for access and acceptable use of information communication technology in relation to the school.