Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to what should be another great term at Gorokan Public School. I hope that everybody had a safe and enjoyable holiday and I look forward to sharing the planned events of term 4 with you when they occur. A warm welcome is extended to the new families who have recently joined our school community.

Re-establishing good routines for learning – I would encourage all parents and carers to take time early in the term to re-establish good school routines in order to maximise the learning potential of students. Early to bed on school nights is highly recommended. Being at school on time and every day is critically important for all students. Any absence must be explained to the child’s teacher on their return to school. The daily completion of homework including reading and spelling allows for the consolidation of literacy learning and remember that all students are able to access Mathletics, Reading Eggs and Reading Express from home to build numeracy and literacy skills in a fun and engaging way.

Keeping you informed – This newsletter is only one way in which we try to keep the school community informed. The school website can be accessed at the following link http://www.gorokan-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au. This site is regularly updated and is a great source of information about what’s happening at school.

The Gorokan Public School App allows you to instantly access newsletters, to explain absences instead of writing a paper note as well as receive notifications of upcoming and current school events. Downloading is simple – go to Apple App Store or Android Google Play Market and search Gorokan Public School. The app is free to download. We have also recently started a Gorokan Public School Facebook page – follow us!

Kindergarten Orientation – This valuable program resumed today. This week’s program included a meet and greet by school personnel whilst the children participated in classroom activities. I extend a warm invitation to all 2015 Kindergarten parents and children to attend the next two orientation sessions.

Behaviour Cards – I would encourage all parents and carers to regularly monitor their child/ren’s behaviour card which is sent home at the end of each week.

I have spoken to the students and encouraged them to set themselves small achievable improvement goals for the term ahead and I would appreciate you supporting their efforts. Whilst the students are generally very well behaved, sustained and strategic effort will allow them to be the best that they can be.

Quality Learning Environment - Great efforts have been made to provide the students with a first class learning environment. The exterior painting of the school is almost complete and really has lifted the appearance of the school. The gardens have been attended to and mulched using the mulch created by the removal of dangerous trees from the playgrounds last term. The vegie gardens have a new watering system installed and the Aboriginal garden is stunning. The new LED sign is installed and the new welcome sign inside the gate on Dudley Street looks fantastic. The proposed student drop off / pick up zone is in the final stages of council approval. We are also waiting for news on the outcome of the P & C’s NSW State Government Community Partnership Building Project grant application for the air-conditioning of classrooms. The library is enjoying some new furnishings and Aboriginal inspired artworks created by the students. The hall has also had a coat of paint and looks terrific. A special note of thanks to Greg Harris for his contribution to these projects.

Above: Enora and the Black Crane illustrated by Years 3 and 4 and on display in the library.
Regional Premier’s Spelling Bee final - congratulations to Cameron C (Year 4) who came second in the Regional Premier's Spelling Bee final at the end of last term. Cameron won a dictionary for himself and a four month subscription to Macquarie Dictionary Online for the school. Congratulations to Madeline K, Sarah V, Mia O, who also got through to the Regional final. We are very proud of your efforts.

Chess Competition - Last term students from Gorokan Public school participated in the 20th Annual Central Coast School Chess Competition held at Wyong High School. This year was Gorokan's most successful year at this event with one student being placed in the top four in the Central Coast area. A big thank you to the parents who assisted with transporting students.

Spelling Bee - Congratulations to all the children who participated in the Kindergarten Spelling Bee. They did a great job in spelling some very difficult words. Well done to Ellyse who was the winner.

Homework - A new homework schedule was sent home this week. We hope the children enjoy their new tasks. Homework and readers need to be returned every Friday.

Welcome back to school and we hope you all had a lovely and relaxing break.

This term we have another busy term with swimming scheme for Year 2 to 6 students starting in week 3 and continuing for two weeks.

Please remind your child to bring their hat to school every day, as the weather is getting warmer and they can burn easily whilst in the playground. If your child has fair skin they can wear sunscreen to school.

Fruit Break is an important part of our morning routine so please make sure your child has a piece of fruit each day. Also all students need to bring in a water bottle as we allow water breaks on hot days.

Welcome back to another exciting and busy term. We hope you had a safe and happy holiday with your families.

Swimming Scheme - Swimming scheme starts in week 3. Please pay any outstanding money that you still owe as soon as possible. There are a few spaces left if you would like your child to attend. This is a very beneficial life skills program, especially coming into the warmer months.

Supplies - Please ensure your child has a sharp lead pencil, whiteboard marker and glue stick ready for school each day.

Public Speaking - Next week Stage 2 students will receive information regarding preparing and presenting a speech. This will be their homework for week 2. Students who prepare and present a speech will be in the running to receive the Gorokan Public School speaking medals at presentation day. Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded.

Child Protection
Child protection lessons will continue for part of this term. These lessons are essential for child safety and are taught by the class teacher.

Family Information
If you have changed your phone number or moved, please send new details to the office so our records can be updated.
Welcome back to term 4. I hope that you enjoyed the school holidays with your children and are looking forward to our final term of the year.

There will be lots of events happening and reading the newsletter will be the best place to find out about them.

Please ensure that your child comes to school in correct school uniform and that behaviour cards are signed weekly.

The Term 4 Class Captain assembly will be held on Friday 17th October in the school hall at 9:15. Invitations will be sent out if your child has been voted into this position this week.

Canteen roster 2014 - Week 1 Term 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday 9th October</th>
<th>Sue King, Paul Tydeman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 10th October</td>
<td>Belinda Bermingham, Susan Cheney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 13th October</td>
<td>Shayne Dodds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 14th October</td>
<td>Janine Vine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 15th October</td>
<td>Belynda Bermingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 16th October</td>
<td>Vicki Smith, Paul Tydeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 17th October</td>
<td>Shayne Dodds, Tina Jones</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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P&C Meeting - Next term’s P&C meeting will be held on Monday 27th October, 2014 at 3.10pm in the SAC Centre. All Welcome.

School News

Gorokan’s Got Talent - Congratulations to all the students who participated in Gorokan’s Got Talent this year. It was great to see so many students performing, showing us their special talents and just having fun.

A special congratulations to Alex Rettenmund for being crowned the 2014 winner.

The DVD will soon be available. Order forms will be sent home soon.

Term 4 Tennis - Year K, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 - 8 lessons for $24.00. Money is due this Friday. Lessons will start next week (Week 2) in our normal sport time. Please return your permission note and your $24.00 if you would like your child to participate.

2014 Kindergarten Transition - We would love you to attend our 2014 Kindergarten transition program. Our aim is to allow your child to experience “big school” in an informal, supportive and caring environment. You and your child are invited to attend on the following dates:

Transition 5 - Wednesday 15/10/14 (9.30 – 11.00am) - Orientation for parents will be in the hall. Children will participate in classroom activities. The topic this session will be ‘How to prepare your child for Kindergarten. What happens in Kindergarten?

Transition 6 - Wednesday 22/10/14 (9.30 – 11.00am) - Orientation for parents will be in the hall. Children will participate in classroom activities. Today we will have an expo of other members of the community.

Please note that when enrolling your child you need to bring their birth certificate, proof of address and immunisation details.
**Building deep relationships with kids**

Building a strong relationship with their children is every parent’s dream. Here are some time-honoured ways of doing this ... if you can stick to them.

Every parent I know wants a great relationship with their children.

An effective way of promoting such relationships is through rituals and traditions. Rituals and traditions build close families.

For example, most strong families I know are underpinned by a strong food culture. In these families, every kid, no matter what their age, is expected to come to the meal table. Kids in these families are generally also expected to participate in other rituals and traditions.

This can require some parenting spine, but these rituals build wide relationships – that is, they gather the tribe together creating a wide relationship circle.

Individual parent–child relationships need to go deep. Deep relationships provide leverage. They also survive the potential storms of adolescence, during which relationships can become stormy and intense.

Certainly some ages are more amenable to positive relationship building than others. Developmentally, it’s easiest to build deep relationships in the opportunity years of latency: five through to ten years of age.

The easiest way to build a deep relationship between yourself and each of your kids is to spend regular one-on-one time together.

- Go somewhere for a whole day with a child.
- Go away for a weekend with just one child. Do things you enjoy.
- If possible, go camping.

These shared experiences can have a magic impact on relationships. They can sometimes lead to vast improvements in children’s behaviour.

Another way to build deep relationships is to share an interest with a child. Having something in common, whether it's a shared love of sport, books or a hobby, creates an individual bond that goes deep. A shared interest also creates ‘natural’ opportunities for one-on-one time.

**Make it happen**

- One-on-one time needs to be organised.
- It generally won’t happen by accident.
- It takes time. It takes energy. It takes a support mechanism to make it happen. Most of all it takes permission.
- But one-on-one time is so worth the effort.
- One-on-one time is the coat hook upon which each of your children will hang their memories of you.

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