Dear Parents and Carers,

**Book Bank Project** – As announced last term, Book Bank is coming to Gorokan Public School in 2015! This unique literacy support program aims to encourage students to cultivate a love for books and read every day. Our Primary students will select books of their choice from the Premier’s Reading Challenge new release list, every term. The lists have arrived and the students who are currently in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will be ordering their books for semester 1, 2015 before the end of term.

**Presentation Day** – This year’s Presentation Day ceremonies were held yesterday. Congratulations to our many award recipients on the day and to the numerous other students who were acknowledged throughout the year for their efforts and achievements in leadership, You Can Do It values, citizenship, academic, sporting and cultural ventures. Approximately 180 awards were handed out on the day, witnessed by the students, parents, carers and special guests including:

- Mrs Jill Hall – MP, Federal Member for Shortland
- Sharryn Brownlee – President of the Central Coast P & C Council, Mrs Vicki Young – former Gorokan Public School Deputy Principal, Mr. Matt Newton – representing Delta Electricity (Sponsor), Mrs Grant Relieving Principal Gorokan High and Mr Craig Wright from Wyong Shire Council Credit Union (Sponsor) and Mrs Gail Farrell, President of Gorokan Public School P & C. During the proceedings next year’s student leadership team was announced – inducted by their 2014 counterparts.

- Girl School Captain – Mary Cheetham
- Boy School Captain – Lachlan Roberts
- Girl Vice Captain – Kaitlyn Raleigh
- Boy Vice Captain – Cameron Naish
- Prefects – Zac Landsiedel, Seth Greenland, Jessica Hiep, Che Watene, Paris Warner, Emma Redman

Congratulations to our 2015 student leadership team!

**Excellence in School Sport Award** – At yesterday’s Presentation Day I had the pleasure of presenting Gail Farrell with an award of Excellence in School Sport from the Department of Education and Communities. Gail received the award for her ongoing service to school sport, in appreciation of her extensive commitment and involvement in sport at school, zone, region and state level for more than 34 years. A framed copy of Gail’s award will be hung proudly in the school foyer.

**Thank You Morning Tea** – All our wonderful helpers were treated to a special Thank You morning tea last Thursday. It was great that this event was well attended and that I had the opportunity to personally and sincerely thank and acknowledge on behalf of the students and staff, the vital work of these special people who generously support the students and the school throughout the year.

**Student Progress Reports** – Reports will be sent home on Friday 12 December. After reading every students’ report I would like to say that I’m impressed by the improvement and additional effort many students have shown during the second semester. I would like to ask parents to support the completion of weekly homework, including home reading in 2015 to ensure our students achieve maximum outcomes next year.

**Gorokan Public School Facebook Page** – School events are regularly posted on the Gorokan Public School Facebook Page as an additional source of information for you. I would encourage the school community to have a look and to like us on Facebook!

**Care for the Coast Christmas Can Collection** – Thank you to all the GPS families who generously donated over 750 items to the Care for the Coast Christmas Can Collection. These items were gifted into hampers for needy families within our community by our students under the guidance of Larissa Dean, assisted by Mr Corlett and their troupe of community volunteers. Congratulations on yet another great community project.

**This will be the last newsletter for 2014**. I would like to sincerely thank the great Gorokan Public School students, staff and community for the warm welcome that I have received over the past 12 months. I look forward to building on our supportive school and community partnership in making a difference for our students in 2015. School concludes next Wednesday 17th December and resumes for students in Years 1 to 6 on Wednesday 28th January 2015. Kindergarten students will have a staggered start as outlined in the notes sent home this week.

Have a safe and merry Christmas holiday break.
Together we can make a difference.

Jesmond Zammit
Principal
**Kindergarten Supervisor – Kim Lansdowne**

**Kinder Party Day** - Kindergarten will be having their party day on Friday 12th December. The children will be allowed to wear mufti clothes with sensible running shoes as they will be participating in lots of fun activities. All children must bring a hat to participate in outdoor activities. To make the day as enjoyable as possible we are planning to have a picnic lunch. Students are asked to bring their lunch in a decorated lunch box. Some suggestions for lunch, besides their sandwiches, are fruit pieces. Vegetable sticks, cheese, popcorn and cupcakes. Please send a drink of water or poppa. Please do not send in any fizzy drinks or lollies.

**Home reading** - All home readers should be returned to school as soon as possible. Please continue to have your child read daily as this helps develop fluency, expression and comprehension. Lake Haven library has a great collection of books for your child to read and it is free to join.

**Xmas Sing-a-long** - You are invited to our K-2 Christmas sing-a-long on Monday 15th December at 11.30am in the school hall. Students are invited to wear Christmas colours, tinsel and Xmas hats on the day. School shoes or runners must be worn.

**Stage 1 Supervisor – Cathie Behringer**

**End of Year** - Well it is week 10 already and as usual a very busy time of year. Our presentation day was held yesterday and our end of year Party day will be held on Friday the 12th December. Your child can wear Christmas colours on this day. If your child is not coming next week (week 11) could you let the teacher know, as we will organise your child’s books and work to go home earlier.

**K-2 sing-along** - The sing-along is on next Monday 15th December. We are also having our Rewards Day on the same day. Only students who have received a Level 4, 5 or 6 all term will be participating in our rewards day activities. Please wear Christmas colours for our sing-along.

**Reports** - Reports for Semester 2 will be going home on Friday 12th December of this week.

I just want to personally thank each and every one of you for your input into your child’s education this year. It has been a pleasure teaching and getting to know your children.

I wish you all the best for the Christmas break and a safe and happy holiday.

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**Stage 2 Relieving Supervisor - Rebecca Ranse**

Congratulations to every student in Stage 2 who has achieved their goals this year. Extra congratulations to our Presentation Day award winners for 2014. Thank you to the amazing Stage 2 teachers for your hard work and dedication this year.

**Party day** - Stage 2 party day is Friday 12th December. Students have been asked to bring in some party food for the occasion. Students are also allowed to wear mufti on this day.

Thank you parents for your support this year. Have a safe and happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. I look forward to seeing everyone return, refreshed and ready for learning in 2015.

**Stage 3 Supervisor – Charlie Corlett**

Thank you - I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support throughout the year.Forging relationships between home and school is beneficial to supporting your child and this has certainly been evident.

**Year 6 Farewell** - We look forward to seeing you at the farewell tonight for a final celebration and send off to our Yr 6 students. Please be punctual when dropping off and collecting your child.

To our Year 6 students who will be leaving Gorokan Public School, we wish you the very best of luck for your future and trust that you will continue to follow our school motto and ‘Learn to Live’.

I hope that you all have a safe and enjoyable summer break and we will see you at the start of Term 1 2015.

**P & C News**

**P&C Meeting** - The P&C meeting for Term 1 2015 will be held on Monday 16th February, 2015 at 3.10pm. All welcome.

The P&C AGM Meeting will be held on Monday 2nd March, 2015. At this meeting all positions held on the P&C are vacated and nominations taken.

**Christmas Sausage Sizzle** - To be held on Wednesday 17th December, 2014. Order forms have been sent home and should be returned by Friday 12th December. The meal consists of sausage sandwich, drink and a surprise at a cost of $4.50.

The P & C and Canteen would like to wish all the families of Gorokan Public School a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

Hope to see you all back for another year in 2015.
Enrolment in 2015 – A final reminder that if you have a child who will not be returning to our school next year (excluding Year 6) we ask that you inform the ladies in the office. The number of students we have plays a vital role in our planning of class structures.

Care for Coast Can Challenge - I would like to say a big thank you to all of our parents and carers for supporting the Care for Coast Can Challenge. Last Thursday all of the classes brought their donations to the hall to help package them into hampers for distribution to families in need. Over 800 non-perishable items were donated, including toys for boys and girls and were put into nearly 50 hampers to help feed families on the Central Coast in need of a helping hand this Christmas. A special mention needs to be made to Larissa Dean who worked with the school to coordinate the project and the supportive parents of the school and Care for Coast volunteers who helped the classes to package together all of the hampers. It was a fantastic opportunity to show our students the benefits of teamwork. Well done to 2V who donated 71 items!

Uniform Shop - The uniform shop will be opening during the school holidays between 9am and 12 midday on the following dates:

Thursday 8th, 15th and 22nd January, 2015

Payment can be made by cash or Eftpos.

Canteen roster 2014 - Week 9 Term 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 11th Dec</td>
<td>Vicki Smith, Paul Tydeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 12th Dec</td>
<td>Tina Jones, Susan Cheney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 15th Dec</td>
<td>Jade Carberry, Erica Richardson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 16th Dec</td>
<td>Janine Vine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 17th Dec</td>
<td>Collette Edwards, Vicki Smith</td>
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</tbody>
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Term 1, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 28th Jan</td>
<td>Vicki Smith, Collette Edwards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 29th Jan</td>
<td>Sue King, Paul Tydeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 30th Jan</td>
<td>Susan Cheney</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stock - As the end of 2014 is approaching fast, we will be running down stock in the canteen. Please make sure your child has a second choice when ordering their lunch. Pies, sausage rolls and sandwiches will always be available.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped out in the canteen this year. Goodbye and good luck to those who will not return next year, your support has been invaluable.

The staff and students of Gorokan Public School wish you all a Merry Christmas & hope you have a safe and happy holiday. See you all in 2015!
Show some kindness and gratitude this festive season

*The festive season provides the opportunity to develop a sense of other in your children and teach them some social graces.*

It can be tricky for parents during the end of year festive and holiday season to guide children down a giving, let alone spiritual path. So much attention is placed on receiving that it can be difficult to develop a sense of ‘other’ in children. It helps to be proactive and put rituals of generosity in place, which will inevitably become part of your family’s traditions.

**Here are some ideas to get you thinking:**

1. **Develop an action of gratitude** Discuss with children the people who have been helpful, kind or gone out of their way for them during the year. Then they can write a note, make a gift or cook something that they can give to those people to say thank you.

2. **Make a family commitment of giving** Pick a cause that’s close to your family’s heart and make a commitment to do something or give something on a regular basis throughout the coming year.

3. **Involve kids in personal giving** If gifts are shared as part of your tradition then do your best to involve children in the giving process. Discuss the choice of gifts: “So what do you think your cousin would like?” Even better, get your kids to accompany you on a shopping trip, if you dare.

4. **Have a clean out** Approaching the festive season provides a great opportunity for kids to spring clean their toy, clothes and technology cupboards. Not only does this make room for the new, (and perhaps unfairly lift their expectations), but it provides the chance for children to pass on unwanted items to siblings, friends or others who would probably appreciate and use them more than they would.

5. **Give them a social script** Children usually operate on a script learnt from their parents. If you want them to be thankful for their gifts then give them the lines they should use. Be prepared for some gentle parental cueing if in all the festive excitement they forget to say thanks.

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