Dear Parents and Caregivers,

**Early Action for Success Initiative** – I am pleased to announce that Mrs Myree Kent has successfully gained the position of Instructional Leader. Myree has a wealth of knowledge and experience in early years education and has left her consultancy position with the Department of Education to join the Gorokan team. As outlined in previous newsletters she will have a Kindergarten to Year 2 focus – aiming to enhance the teaching and learning of English and Mathematics in these critical years. I would also like to welcome Miss Raquel Weyling to the Gorokan teaching team. Raquel will support this initiative by team teaching in K-2 classrooms - increasing explicit teaching time in English and Mathematics.

In addition to the Instructional Leader and the associated position, I would also like to welcome Mrs Karen Ansell who has been employed on a Friday to proactively support student wellbeing programs that include anti bullying, resilience, confidence and social skills. She will be a great addition to our wonderful teaching staff.

**P & C Meeting** – Our P & C meets next Monday 12th May at 3:15pm in the SACC. All parents and caregivers are welcome to attend.

**Active After School Sport Program** – This week saw the commencement of this great program. Through positive and fun experiences, the students who participate in this program are introduced to physical and sporting activities that may further inspire them to pursue these interests. This term’s program includes Zumba fitness and basketball. Thank you to Mrs Ranse who has initiated and organised this program for our students.

**Voluntary School Contributions Reminder** - Thanks again to the families who have made school contribution payments for the 2014 school year. The single child rate is $15, families with more than one child are asked to pay $25. The children will benefit directly from these contributions.

**Sydney Writers’ Festival Schools’ Day 23rd May** – Sydney Writers’ Festival Schools’ Day is a celebration of literature for children and young adults, featuring a handpicked line-up of writers for primary students. This is a fantastic opportunity for some of our students to engage with their favourite authors and be inspired in a fun, educational and interactive day. In these hugely popular sessions, writers and illustrators will perform, read from their work, talk about their craft and take questions from the audience. As there are only a small amount of tickets available for each school, we are restricted to 47 students attending. Students in Years 3-6 who are nominated to attend will have shown promise as budding authors and will receive a permission note this week.

**School Uniforms** – Thanks for the great effort that you put into sending your children to school neatly dressed in their correct school uniform. Wearing the correct uniform instils pride in their school and a sense of belonging. As the weather is beginning to get colder please ensure that school jumpers are labelled with your child’s name so that they can be returned to them in the event that they are lost.

Jesmond Zammit
Principal
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - TERM 1, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 14th</td>
<td>NAPLAN Reading (Years 3 &amp; 5)</td>
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<td>May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 15th</td>
<td>NAPLAN Numeracy (Years 3 &amp; 5)</td>
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<td>May</td>
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<td>Monday 19th</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting</td>
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<td>May</td>
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<td>Friday 23rd</td>
<td>Sydney Writers' Festival</td>
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<td>May</td>
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<td>Friday 6th</td>
<td>Pyjama Day – Gold coin donation</td>
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<td>June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 10th</td>
<td>Sydney Excursion Year 4</td>
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<td>June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 12th</td>
<td>Sydney Excursion Year 3</td>
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SCHOOL NEWS

Pyjama Day  - This year we will be participating in Pyjama Day on Friday 6th June. We will be collecting a gold coin donation which supports the children’s ward at Wyong and Gosford Hospital.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS- SUPERVISOR – KIM LANSDOWNE

Uniforms  - Please ensure that your child has their hat each day and that all their belongings are labelled.

Food  - Many children are bringing large amounts of food every day. Children require a piece of fruit for fruit break, something healthy for morning tea and their lunch plus a drink of water.

News Topics  - It has been wonderful to see so many children participate in news and try and speak confidently. This week is about their favourite book. Next week will be about their favourite DVD.

Reading  - Children should still be read to this term as well as them reading to you. Remember children learn at different rates. Regular opportunities to read and to be read to is important.

STAGE 1 NEWS - SUPERVISOR - CATHIE BEHRINGER

Mother’s Day  - Thank you so much to all the parents who worked at the Mother’s Day stall last Friday. We hope all the mums and carers had a lovely and relaxing Mother’s Day.

Reading  - Please make sure that your child is reading each night at home. It is essential to their reading development that they have daily practice of a book that is familiar to them. Some children love to read and others find it very difficult to sit and practice. For the students that find reading practice a challenge there are some things we can do to make it easier for them.

1. Make it a positive experience where only positive things are said.
2. Read the book to your child first before they read to you.
3. Make it a daily routine where it is just expected that they get their book and read.
4. Make it at a time where you are not busy and where they are not tired and hungry. Sometimes at breakfast time in the morning is better after a good night’s sleep.

Class Awards:  1C- Hayden and Jacinta  K/1H- Kianah  1B- Brendan and Ryder 1SA – John and Chloe  Maddison
STAGE 2 NEWS - SUPERVISOR - BELYNDA GRUDEN

Excursions - Most parents have returned permission notes and a deposit to secure their child’s place for the Yr 3 and Yr 4 Sydney Excursion. Thank you.

Home Reading - Term 2 home reading has begun, 10 minutes per day for chapter books, short text types can be changed daily. There are many home readers that have not been returned from Term 1. Please check your shelves and return to your child’s teacher. Home reading logs have been sent home for Term 2.

NAPLAN - A big congratulations to our Year 3 students who have been working hard on their NAPLAN tests this week.

Class Awards:
3G - Dean, Alan 3M - Madyson, Dezarae 3/4B - Alexis, Ryan
4C - Andy, Jourdan 4H - Ashton, Brianna

STAGE 3 NEWS- Year 5 & 6 SUPERVISOR – CHARLIE CORLETT

University of Newcastle - Information was sent home on Monday about an upcoming excursion to The University of Newcastle, Australia as part of the 'Aim High' program. The visit will take place at the university's Ourimbah campus. Family members and Carers are strongly encouraged to attend the day. Please ensure that you return the permission slip by Monday 26th May to your child's classroom teacher. If you have any questions about the day please feel free to ask myself or your child's classroom teacher.

Year 5
NAPLAN testing started on Tuesday and finishes on Thursday. If your child has been absent on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday then Friday has been set aside as a test 'make-up' day. Well done to all of our Year 5 students for their hard efforts leading up to NAPLAN.

Leadership Conference - Our school Captains and Prefects will be attending a Leadership Conference on Wednesday 21st May at Newcastle Panthers. The conference includes practical workshops that challenges students and develops their leadership skills. We are sure that students will have a positive experience and will come back to school with greater leadership skills after the experience.

CANTEEN NEWS

Canteen roster 2014 - Week 3 Term 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Canteen Roster</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 15th May</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Sue King</td>
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<td>Friday 16th May</td>
<td>Susan Cheney</td>
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<td>Monday 19th May</td>
<td>Janine Vine</td>
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<td>Tuesday 20th May</td>
<td>Belinda Bermingham, Jade Carberry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 21st May</td>
<td>Sarah Browne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 22nd May</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Vicki Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 23rd May</td>
<td>Sarah Browne</td>
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Fruit & Vegie Friday - This term's fruit & vegie Friday to be held on Friday 30th May, 2014. Menu will be advertised outside the canteen. Lunch orders are as normal.
P & C Meeting - This term's P&C Meeting will be held on Monday 19th May, 2014 at 3.10pm in the SAC Centre. All welcome.

Mother's Day Stall - We hope all the mums, grandmothers and carers of Gorokan Public School enjoyed their Mother's Day gifts. Thank you to Vicki Smith, Paul Tydeman, Sarah Browne, Tina Jones, Lisa Cook, Shayne Dodds, Vicky Salvine, Jenny Allen and Karen Gregory who made the stall a great success.

Book Club - Orders for Scholastic Issue 3 have been processed and books should be returned to the children next week.

COMMUNITY NEWS

What's happening in the Schools as Community centre this term?

Rebuilding after a separation - Tuesday 20th May – 24th June 9:30am - 12:00pm
This 5 week program is to assist people to help rebuild their lives after separation and divorce. Topics include:
• how to deal with the end of a relationship and how to manage the difficult feelings
• providing tools for a positive change and moving forward
• Understanding the ways past relationships affect present behaviours and set personal goals to change these patterns
Limited Child care is available to families participating at no cost.
Booking essential - contact Lynda on 0467 760 712

Sticky fingers and messy play - 1:30pm-2:30pm Tuesday 20th May—17th June
Kids love to get messy, it comes with being a kid as they explore their natural curiosity about the world around them. Come along and let your little one enjoy many messy play experiences. Each week we will make and then play with slime, goop, explore puff paint, cloud dough, and a whole lot more.

Supported play group - Wednesday 10:00am - 12:00pm
Open for families with children aged 0-6 years. Come along and meet other local families. Let your children play, gain new friendships, we sing, dance, and do art and craft activities. The group is facilitated by trained and caring staff. A healthy morning tea is provided. It's free, and everyone welcome!

Lakes Artfest 2014

Art workshops will be held:
When: Wednesday 21st May – 4.30pm to 6.30pm
       Wednesday 11th June - 4.30pm to 6.30pm
Where: Lakes Anglican Church, 274 Wallarah Road, Kanwal Phone 43931333 (9am to 3pm)

The Art Workshops are held to promote and display the artistic talent of our younger members in our local community. The workshops are led by experienced art teachers and artists. Places are limited so please ring to book.