Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Pyjama Day Fundraiser - Last Friday the students and staff participated in Pyjama Day to raise money for the children’s wards at Wyong and Gosford hospitals. Apart from it being an extremely fun activity for all involved, we were able to raise $428.00 on the day. Congratulations on a great community effort.

Stranger Danger – Further to the note that was sent home last week regarding one of our students being approached by a stranger when walking to school, please be reassured that the police are now investigating the matter. I would encourage you to reinforce the stranger danger message at home. Walking to school in a group or under adult supervision is always a good idea.

Before and After School Care – Please be advised that teachers commence morning playground supervision at 8:30am and that apart from bus duty, there is no official supervision of the playground after 3pm. In the interest of student safety I would request that students needing to be at school outside these hours are enrolled in the before and after school program available at the school. Please contact the office if you require further information.

Premier’s Debating Challenge – Our school debating team represented Gorokan Public School confidently and honourably in last week’s debate. They were defeated by a narrow margin in the second round of the Premier’s Debating Challenge by Wyong Public School. Kaitlyn, Ashley, Tyson and Shae had the difficult task of debating “Violence in shows and games aimed at children should not be banned”. Each debate provides the team with experience and learning opportunities from which to grow from. Congratulations to the team and to Miss Bates for the great job that she is doing in leading and developing our debaters.

Student Safety in Suncrest Parade – I am aware of the frustrating situation parents and carers are faced with due to the fact that the school does not have an official drop off zone and I have contacted Wyong Shire Council to start the ball rolling for the establishment of such a zone on Dudley Street. I will keep you posted as things progress but in the meantime I would request parents and carers who drive their children to school not to use the school entry on Suncrest Parade in the interest of student safety.

It is illegal and extremely dangerous stopping in this area and is putting students at risk of harm unnecessarily. That entrance to the school is intended to be a pedestrian entrance, staff car park and entry point for deliveries. There is no space to safely turn a car around and it is a “No Stopping” area during before and after school hours. Thank you for your anticipated understanding and assistance with this.

Kindergarten 2015 – A further reminder is extended to parents who have a child starting Kindergarten next year to complete the form in this newsletter and drop it into the office as a priority. We need this information so that plans can be finalised for the Kindergarten orientation programme. It would be greatly appreciated if you could inform parents of children who will be starting school next year and who do not receive a GPS Newsletter of this request also.

Instructional Leader Training – This week Myree Kent and I will be attending two days of training by the Department, outlining its requirements regarding the Early Action For Success initiative which Gorokan Public School is most fortunate to be a part of. Jason Clenton will be relieving Principal in my absence and I look forward to sharing any new information with you on my return.

Together we can make a difference.

Jesmond Zammit
Principal

Wednesday 11th June, 2014

Health Alert - We would like to bring to your attention that we have reported cases of hand, foot and mouth disease. If your child presents with a rash on their palms, mouth or feet please contact your local doctor.

PJ Day - Thank you to the families that supported Pyjama Day last Friday. The children found it quite interesting to be in their pyjamas at school.

Supplies- We would appreciate donations of glue sticks.

Headphones - Thank you to the families that have sent in headphones.
Clothing - Please ensure that all your child’s clothing is clearly labelled with their name as we have had lots of lost property lately.

Class Awards:
KE/T - Shaena, Cooper
KL - Aimee, Brayth
KS - Isabella, Stef

Stage 1 News – Cathie Behringer

Clothing - It is week 7 already and the weather has started to get colder. Please make sure your child’s jumpers and jackets are all clearly labelled with their name and class.

Reward Day - Reward day is coming up on Thursday in week 9 and all the students that have received levels 4, 5 and 6 will get to participate in a K-2 disco.

Reports - will be going home in week 8 and all parents will get a chance to come and speak to the teacher concerning their child’s progress and report.

Thought For the Week - What’s the most important trait you’d like to develop in your child? We all want bright, smart, children, who are happy and successful in whatever they choose to do in life. As a parent YOU have the power to boost your child’s learning potential simply by making ‘books’ an integral part of their life.

Class Awards:
1C - Diahanne, Jamie
K/1H - Isabella
1B - Breanna, Zachery
1SA - John, Brayden
1/2T - Kaitlyn Swain

Stage 2 News - Supervisor – Belynda Gruden

Year 4 Excursion - Well done to all our Year 4 students who were wonderful on our excursion to Sydney. They engaged in all the activities and learnt many new things. A big thank you to all of our parent helpers, we couldn’t do it without you.

Class Awards:
3G - Callan R, Zoe W
3M - Declan H, Alex M
3/4B - Aylesha S, Keden M, Rhys S
4H - Nathan C, Hope T
4C - Jayden B, Tia B

Stage 3 News – Supervisor – Charlie Corlett

Stage 3 assembly - Stage 3 has been working hard preparing a special assembly where each class will be presenting an item of work that they have produced this semester. You are invited to attend our assembly on Monday 16th June in the school hall at 2pm.

Discover Uni Day Excursion – This Friday we are leaving Gorokan Public School at 9:00am and will return to school by 2:15pm.

Students, Parents and Carers need to bring their own recess and lunch for the day. Students are to wear full school uniform and it is advisable to bring wet weather gear. The excursion will go ahead regardless of the weather conditions as the University has made wet weather contingency plans for the day. For any Parents and Carers that are driving directly to the Ourimbah Campus, please advise your child’s teacher, in writing, so that we are not waiting for you on the day of the excursion.

Canteen roster 2014 - Week 8 Term 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Canteen Roster</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 12th June</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13th June</td>
<td>Belinda Bermingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 16th June</td>
<td>Janine Vine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17th June</td>
<td>Belinda Bermingham, Jade Carberry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18th June</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 19th June</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Vicki Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 20th June</td>
<td>Shayne Dodds, Vicky Saville</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Price Rise - Due to continual price rises from our suppliers, chicken chips will now be $1.50 for 3 and $3.00 for 6 from Monday 23rd June, 2014.

Book Club - Brochures for Scholastic Issue 4 have been sent home and orders with money should be returned by Friday 13th June, 2014.

P & C News

Thompson Pies Fundraiser - Orders are due this Friday. Help us raise money for new educational iPad apps for your children to use in class. Order forms have been sent home and should be returned by Friday 13th June, 2014. Orders will be available for pick up on Tuesday 24th June from 8.30am to 9.30am in the hall.

Little Cake Day - This term's Little Cake Day will be held on Friday 20th June, 2014. Years 2 and 4 are asked to donate biscuits, cakes or toffees towards our stall. They will be sold at recess for 20c or 50c. Any donations can be left at the canteen on the morning of the stall.

Council’s Community Ward Forums - Council is holding Community Ward Forums in Wards A & B every 3 months to encourage residents to participate in the provision of feedback to Council on issues of interest to the local and wider community. They will also consist of a Roadshow component to highlight current Council projects or provide information on items requested by the community.

The next A Ward Forum is being held at Halekulani Bowling Club 28 August 2014 from 6:00pm-9:00pm and the B Ward Forum at The Entrance Leagues Club on 2 September 2014 6:00-9:00pm.

Have you got a child starting Gorokan School next year?
We have Transition to school playgroup starting next term in the school as community centre.
Time: 9:00 - 11:00am
Starting: Tuesday 22\textsuperscript{nd} July

Come along meet other families starting school, become familiar with the school and its staff, and assist your child learn valuable school readiness skills. Please bring a healthy morning tea. It’s free and Parents / Carers must stay with their child; younger siblings are welcome.

**Are you a Grandparent caring for a young child 0-5 years?**

We have an opportunity to start a *grandparents supported play group*, but we would like to see if there is interest in the community for this group.

This playgroup would enable grandparents to get together, meet and talk to other families who are experiencing the joys and the challenges of caring for grandchildren on a full time or part time basis. The children get to play, paint, sing a song or two and then read a story. The group would be free and would run during school term.

If you would be interested in coming to this group could you please contact Lynda on 0467 760 712 or email Lynda.wooden@det.nsw.edu.au

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**Kindergarten Enrolments 2015 – Return slip for office staff**

Child’s Name (in full): __________________________________________ Date of Birth: _____________________

Male    Female (please circle)

Names of Siblings at school (if applicable):_______________________________

Address:  ____________________________________________________________________________________

Home Telephone Number: _____________________ Mobile Number: ____________________

Email:_______________________________________________________________________________________

I would like any correspondence addressed to:

Miss / Ms / Mrs / Mr / Mr & Mrs (please circle) _______________________________________________________

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**Parenting Tips**

**Kids with two homes**

"More than one million Australian children now spend part of their lives in two homes. “Doing the child shuffle” no longer just means driving kids to football, ballet practice or their latest leisure activity. Many children have to negotiate two different environments, two sets of rules, and in some cases, two different families."
Years ago adults would invariably ask a child how many brothers and sisters he had. Now with over 50,000 Australian families separating every year, you’d just as likely ask a child how many homes he has.

More than one million Australian children now spend part of their lives in two homes. “Doing the child shuffle” no longer just means driving kids to football, ballet practice or their latest leisure activity. Many children have to negotiate two different environments, two sets of rules, and in some cases, two different families.

Some kids adapt well to living in two homes, while others resist these arrangements. The age of children, as well as the circumstances that lead to these arrangements, impact on children’s willingness to spread themselves between two homes.

Young children with less established social lives are often more willing to spend time in two houses. As kids move into adolescence and begin to establish strong ties to their neighbourhoods, as well as develop their own interests, they can resent the regular visits to their ‘other home’. It’s important to be flexible with arrangements so that they suit children’s ages, lifestyles and changing interests.

The circumstances that lead to two-home arrangements can lead to resistance, as few kids want to see their original family break up. Nevertheless, kids are naturally resilient and they do usually adjust to living in two households in time. Here are some ideas to help make the transition between homes easier:

✔ **Keep a communications book.** The first rule of shared parenting is to communicate. So make sure your partner is on the same page by keeping a communications book that your children take with them as they move between households. Both parents should list things such as homework, a visit to the doctor or other important matters that the other parent should know.

✔ **Establish routines.** Routines remove the guess work from children’s lives, enabling them to focus on playing, learning and meeting with friends. They like to know what to expect when they arrive at their second home and what will happen when they return to their original home. Perhaps you can serve a meal, play a game or just give them time to themselves to make the transition easier.

✔ **Make moving easy for kids.** Duplicate important items, some clothes and, even stuffed toys so kids feel comfortable in both places. Develop a checklist for kids to use and make sure they use it every time they move.

✔ **Give them a space of their own.** If you can’t provide a bedroom of their own, they should have their own cupboard to store clothes and special items.

✔ **Be rational, not emotional when saying goodbye.** Parental attitudes impact on how well kids settle into new routines. Avoid hugging your child as he leaves as if you’ll never see him again. Even if you don’t want your child to go, it’s important that he or she doesn’t bring excess emotional baggage with them to their other home.

✔ **Work with the other parent to have similar routines.** Try to agree to basic routines and household rules such as bedtime, mealtimes and TV time. This makes life easier for kids, and stops them playing one parent off against the other.

✔✔ **Let them experience life as normal in both homes.** It’s common for one parent to manage the routine parenting matters, while the other provides a great deal of the fun for kids. The aim for both parents should be to balance enjoyable relationship-building activities with more mundane activities such as helping with homework and making sure kids clean their teeth.

Living in two households is a challenge for many kids, but one that they can meet. It’s easier when both parents communicate to their children that they want this arrangement to succeed, and keep the best interests of their child as their main focus.

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